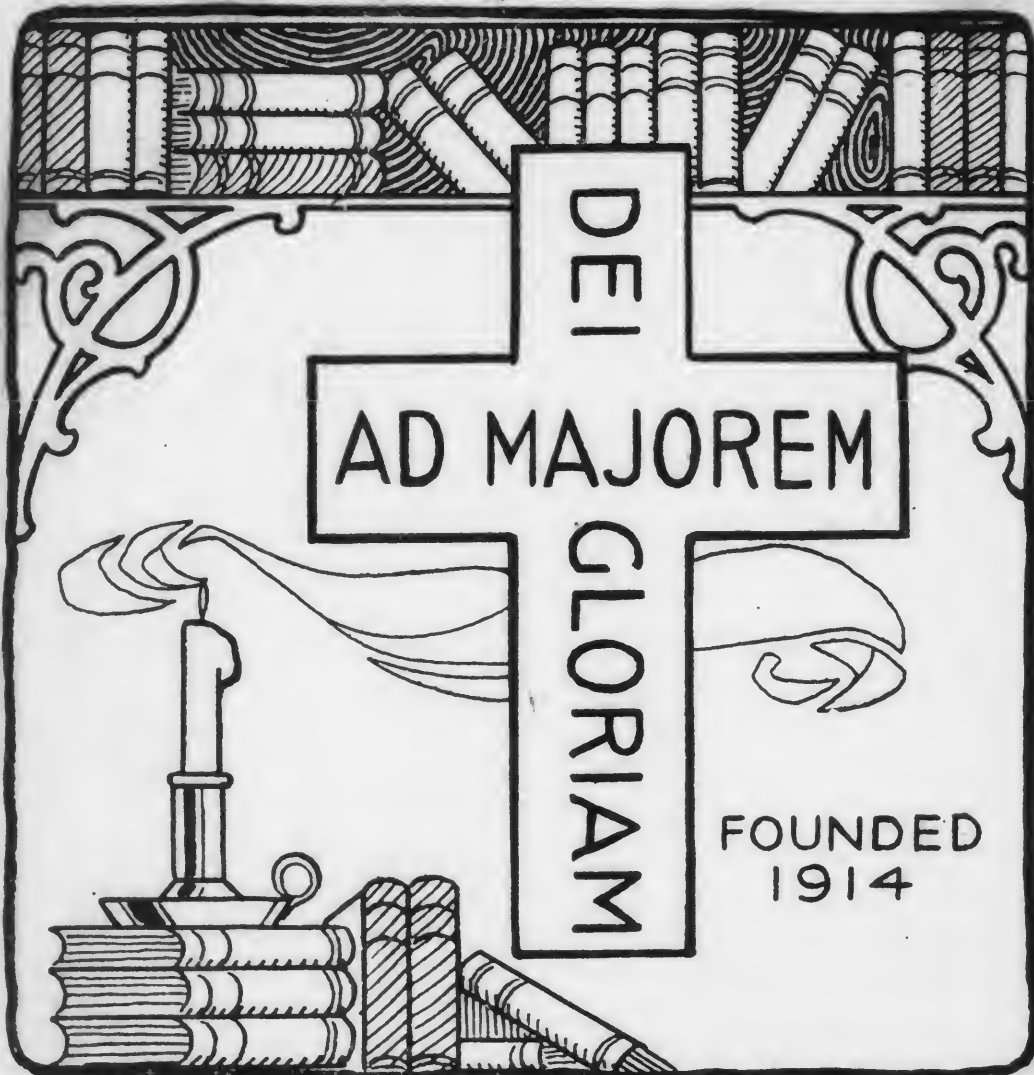


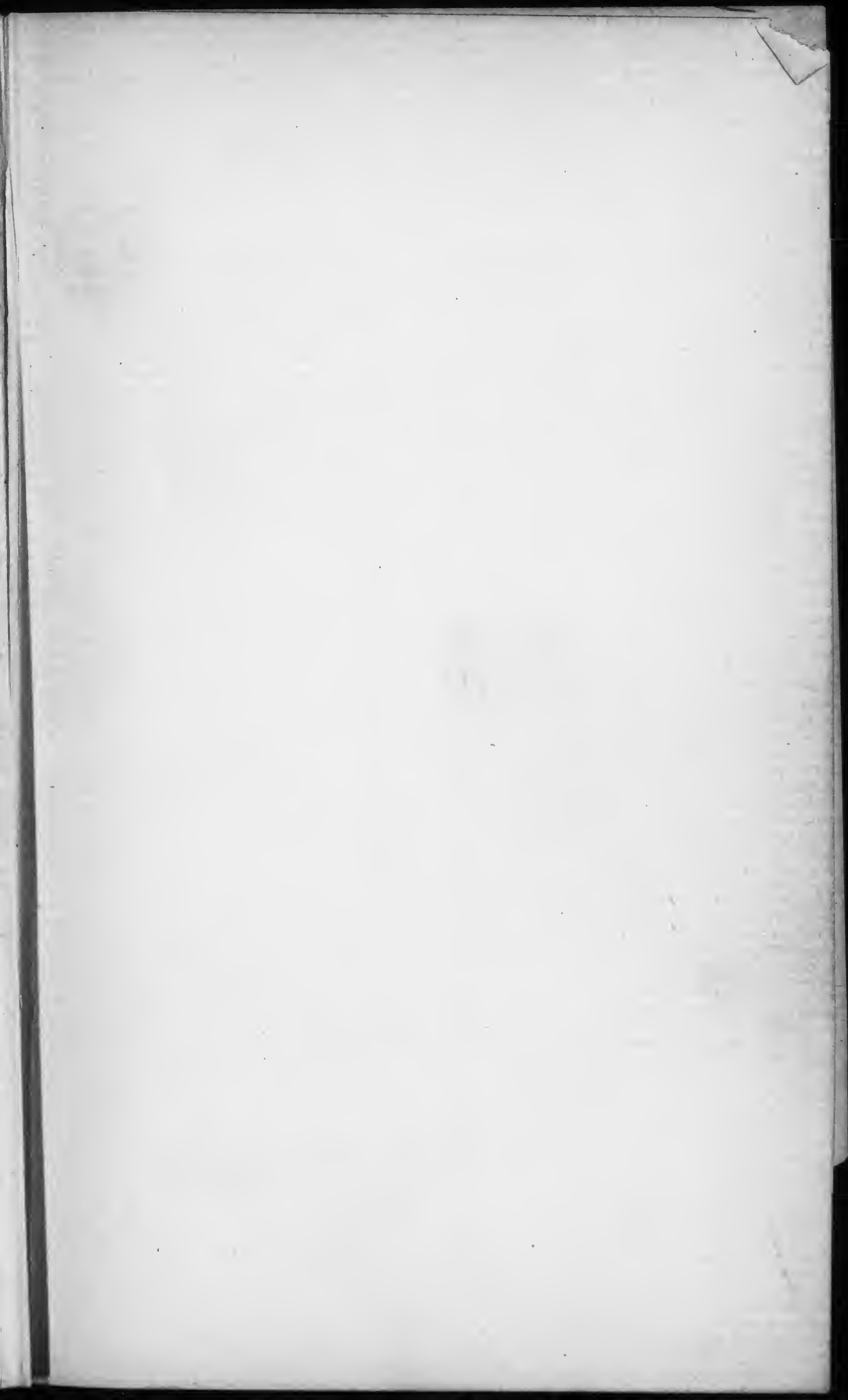
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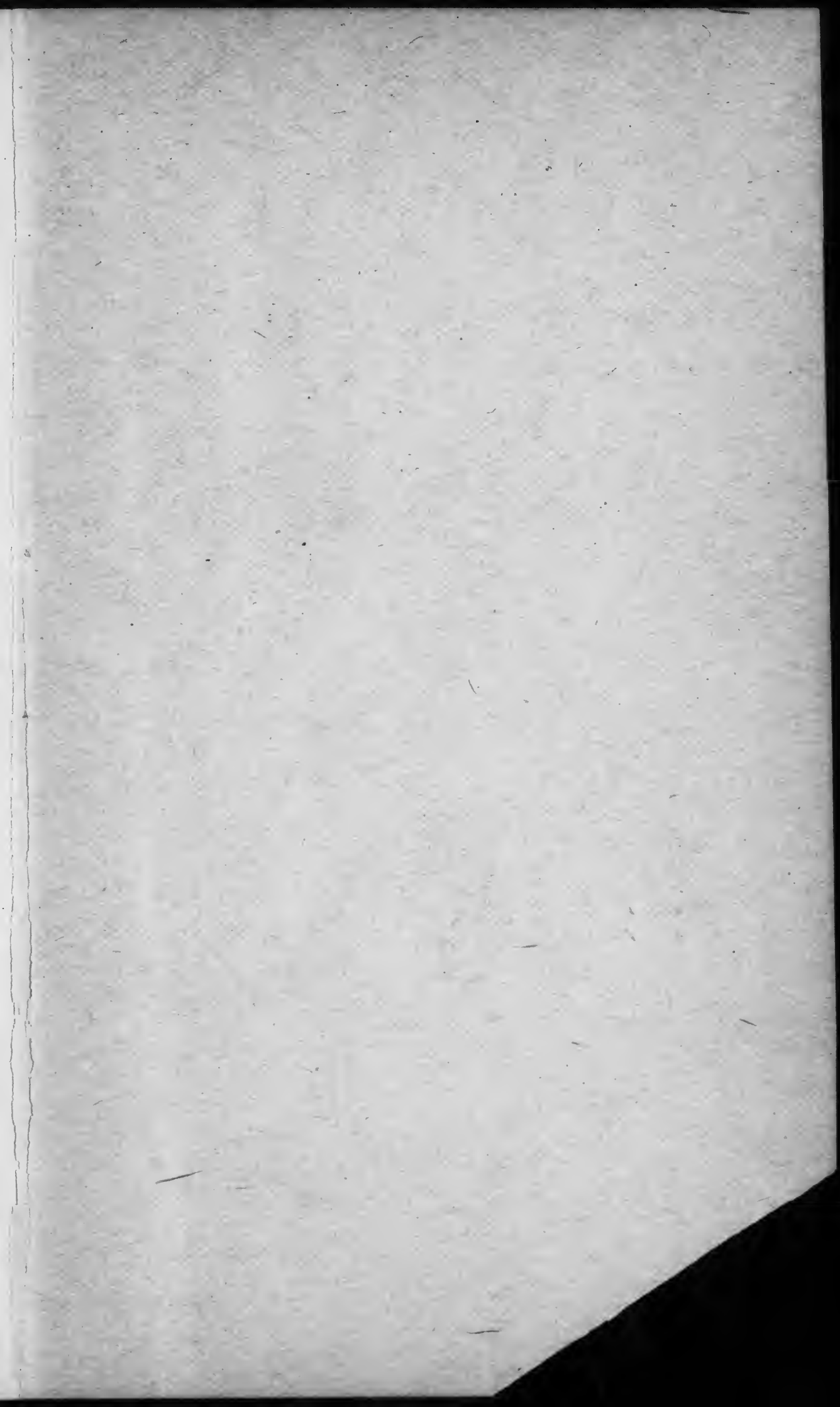
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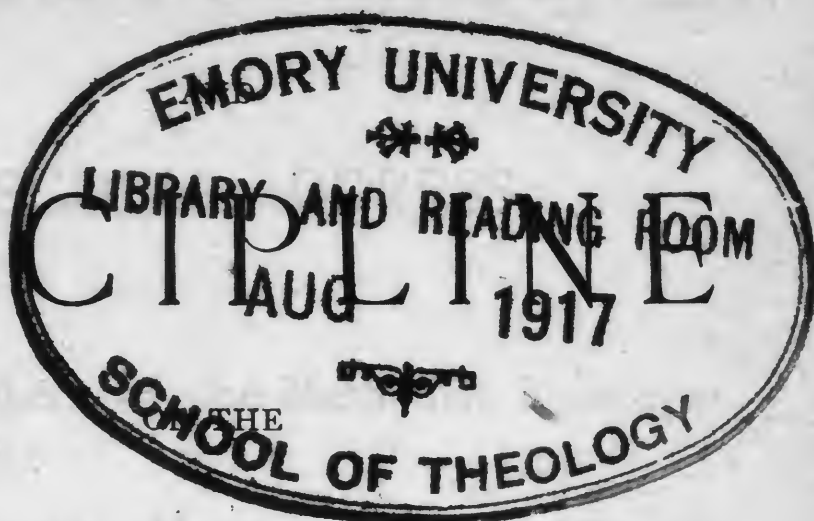








THE DOCTRINES  
DISCIPLINE



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1896

WITH AN APPENDIX

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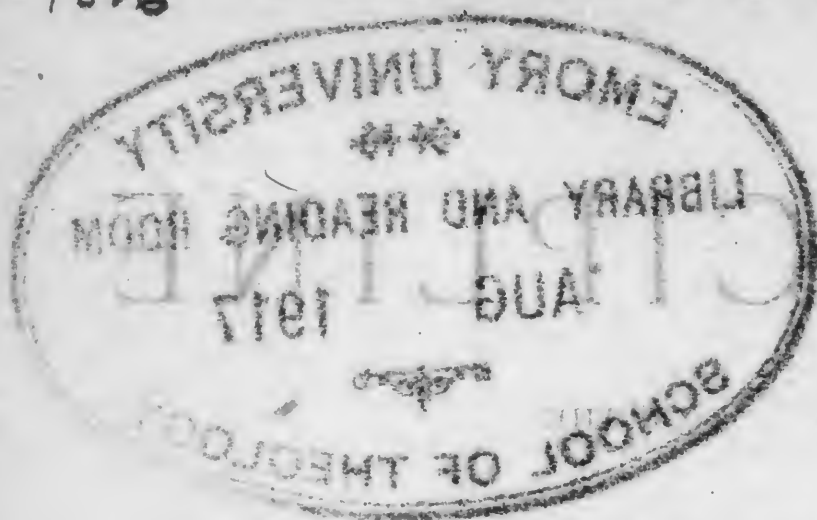
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## EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.

To the Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church :

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: We esteem it our privilege and duty most earnestly to recommend to you this volume, which contains the DOCTRINE and DISCIPLINE of our Church, both of which, as we believe, are agreeable to the word of God, the only and the sufficient rule of faith and practice. Yet the Church, using the liberty given to it by its Lord, and taught by the experience of a long series of years and by observations made on ancient and modern Churches, has from time to time modified its Discipline so as better to secure the end for which it was founded.

We believe that God's design in raising up the Methodist Episcopal Church in America was to evangelize the continent and spread scriptural holiness over these lands. As a proof hereof we have seen since that time an extraordinary work of God extending throughout all the United States and

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## EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.

Territories, and throughout the British possessions of North America, and also the planting of successful Missions in South America and in Mexico. Moreover, the Methodist Episcopal Church, in its organic form and in spiritual power, has been successfully planted in Africa, Asia, and Europe, and God has given it great prosperity in those countries.

During the period in which this work has been thus extending, the Church has revised and enlarged its legislation to meet the new demands created by its own success, as well as by the ever-new conditions of the diverse peoples among whom it strives to build up the kingdom of God. Our Book of Discipline, at first small and simple, has thus gradually become larger, more varied in its topics, and more important by reason of the magnitude of the activities which it regulates. Its provisions for our expanding educational, missionary, and publishing work are illustrations of this statement.

The peculiar Constitution and Administrative Rules of our Church, to which its prosperity is largely due, require careful study. The Itinerant Ministry, the Sub-pastorate through Classes, the Episcopacy, the Presiding Eldership, the Con-



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ferences in their gradation, the Local Ministry, the Judicial Administration, the Interdependence of the Ministry and the Laity, with the well-defined duties and rights of each, are severally parts of a coherent system which cannot be duly valued, profitably used, or wisely modified except by those who through loving and faithful care have become familiar with it both as a living whole and in its manifold details.

We therefore earnestly wish that this volume may be found in the house of every Methodist ; and the more so because it contains the Articles of Religion maintained more or less, in part or in whole, by every evangelical Church in the world.

The Order of Worship herein set forth we commend to your scrupulous observance. In substance, it has been received from our Fathers, has been approved by the sober judgment and enjoined by the supreme authority of the Church, and, if uniformly observed, will continue to be both a token and bond of unity throughout our widespread communion.

We are not willing that you should be ignorant of any of our Doctrines or of any part of our Discipline, but desire you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the whole. You ought, next to

## EPISCOPAL ADDRESS.

the Holy Scriptures, to understand the Articles of Religion and the Rules of the Church to which you belong.

We remain your very affectionate Brethren and Pastors,

THOMAS BOWMAN,  
RANDOLPH S. FOSTER,  
STEPHEN M. MERRILL,  
EDWARD G. ANDREWS,  
HENRY W. WARREN,

CYRUS D. FOSS,

JOHN F. HURST,

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JOHN M. WALDEN,

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JOHN P. NEWMAN,

DANIEL A. GOODSSELL,

CHARLES C. McCABE,

EARL CRANSTON.

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## HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

THE doctrine and spirit of Primitive Christianity have existed at different times and in different degrees in all branches of the kingdom of Christ among men. They were embodied in a new form on this wise:

“In 1729 two young men in England, reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness, followed after it, and incited others so to do. In 1737 they saw, likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified; but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people.”

This was the rise of Methodism, as given in the words of its founders, John and Charles Wesley, of Oxford University, and Presbyters of the Church of England. Their evangelical labors were accompanied by an extraordinary divine influence; other Ministers and many Lay Preachers were raised up to aid them; and throughout England and in Scotland and Ireland arose *United Societies* of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness. These subsequently became the Wesleyan Churches of Great Britain.

In the year 1766 Philip Embury, a Wesleyan Local Preacher from Ireland, began to preach in New York city and formed a Society, now the John Street Church. Another Local Preacher, Thomas Webb, captain in the British army, soon joined him, and also preached elsewhere in the city and its vicinity. About the same time

## HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

Robert Strawbridge, from Ireland, settled in Frederick County, Maryland, preaching there and forming Societies. In 1769 Mr. Wesley sent to America two Itinerant Preachers, Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmoor, and in 1771 two others, Francis Asbury and Richard Wright. The work thus begun was signally owned of God, so that, at the close of the Revolutionary War, the number of Traveling Preachers was about eighty, and of Members in Society about fifteen thousand.

When the independence of the United States was acknowledged by the treaty of 1783, the American Methodists, most of whom had been members of the Church of England, were, according to the express declaration of Mr. Wesley, "totally disentangled both from the State and the English hierarchy." He added: "They are now at full liberty simply to follow the Scriptures and the Primitive Church, and we judge it best that they should stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has so strangely made them free." The parish clergy had mostly returned to England. The Methodist Societies were without ordained Pastors, and "for hundreds of miles together" were destitute of the Christian Sacraments. As his children in the Gospel, they appealed to Mr. Wesley for advice and help.

He responded by ordaining the Revs. Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey as Presbyters (or Elders) for America; and also (since he preferred the Episcopal form of Church government) by setting apart, by prayer and the imposition of hands, the Rev. Thomas Coke, Doctor of Civil Law, and a Presbyter of the Church of England, to be a Superintendent, "to preside over the flock of Christ" in America. In these services he was assisted by other ordained ministers. He also commissioned Dr. Coke to ordain, as joint Superintendent with himself,

## HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

the Rev. Francis Asbury, then General Assistant for the American Societies. Mr. Wesley also prepared "Articles of Religion" and a "Sunday Service," both abbreviated from the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England. In the "Sunday Service" were included forms for the Administration of the Sacraments and for the ordination of Ministers.

At the "Christmas Conference," begun in Baltimore, Maryland, December 24, 1784, sixty Preachers met Dr. Coke and his companions. The plan of Mr. Wesley was submitted to them, and was unanimously and heartily approved. Thereupon they organized the METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, and adopted the Articles of Religion and the Sunday Service prepared by Mr. Wesley, adding to the Articles one containing a recognition of the new Civil Government, and inserting in the Ritual a prayer for the Supreme Rulers of the United States. They also enacted all laws necessary for the government of the new Church. Mr. Asbury was elected to the Episcopal office conjointly with Dr. Coke, by whom, with the assistance of several Presbyters, he was duly consecrated a Bishop. Other members of the Conference were ordained Deacons, and of these twelve were ordained Elders, two of them for missionary work in Nova Scotia and one for like work in Antigua, in the West Indies.

Such was the origin of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the first with an Episcopal form of government to attain an independent existence in the new Republic. While its polity and administrative rules have from time to time been modified to meet changing conditions and opportunities, it remains unchanged in doctrine and in ministerial offices. Coeval with the Republic, it has expanded with it, and ministered to its moral and religious life. At this date (1896) its communicants, not including



## HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

adherents, number more than two and three quarter millions. Other Methodist Churches, derived from the original root, flourish by its side. Obviously its founders were wise and godly men, fulfilling the purpose of the great Head of the Church.

It has always believed that the only infallible proof of the legitimacy of any branch of the Christian Church is in its ability to seek and to save the lost and to disseminate the Pentecostal spirit and life. Its chief stress has ever been laid, not upon forms, but upon the essentials of religion. It holds that true Churches of Christ may differ widely in ceremonies, ministerial orders, and government. Its members are allowed freedom of choice among the debated modes of Baptism. If any member has scruples against receiving the Lord's Supper kneeling, he is permitted to receive it standing or sitting. In ordinary worship its people are invited to unite in extemporaneous prayer, but for the Administration of the Sacraments, Ordinations, the Solemnization of Matrimony, the Burial of the Dead, and other special services, a Liturgy, much of which has been sanctioned by the universal Church from most ancient times, is appointed.

The sole object of the rules, regulations, and usages of the Methodist Episcopal Church is that it may fulfill to the end of time its original divine vocation as a leader in evangelization, in all true reforms, and in the promotion of fraternal relations among all branches of the one Church of Jesus Christ, with whom it is a coworker in the spiritual conquest of the world for the Son of God.

**PART I.**

**THE CHURCH**

- I. ARTICLES OF RELIGION.
- II. GENERAL RULES.
- III. SPECIAL ADVICES.
- IV. MEMBERSHIP.
- V. WORSHIP.

## CHAPTER I. ARTICLES OF RELIGION.

### I. *Of Faith in the Holy Trinity.*

¶ 1. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

### II. *Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made very Man.*

¶ 2. The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men.

### III. *Of the Resurrection of Christ.*

¶ 3. Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

IV. *Of the Holy Ghost.*

¶ 4. The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. *The Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation.*

¶ 5. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church. The names of the canonical books are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, The First Book of Samuel, The Second Book of Samuel, The First Book of Kings, The Second Book of Kings, The First Book of Chronicles, The Second Book of Chronicles, The Book of Ezra, The Book of Nehemiah, The Book of Esther, The Book of Job, The Psalms, The Proverbs, Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, Cantica or Song of Solomon, Four Prophets the greater, Twelve Prophets the less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

VI. *Of the Old Testament.*

¶ 6. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and Man.



Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses as touching ceremonies and rites doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian whatsoever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

#### VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin.*

¶ 7. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

#### VIII. *Of Free Will.*

¶ 8. The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

#### IX. *Of the Justification of Man.*

¶ 9. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

X. *Of Good Works.*

¶ 10. Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgments; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

XI. *Of Works of Supererogation.*

¶ 11. Voluntary works—besides, over, and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required: whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that is commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

XII. *Of Sin after Justification.*

¶ 12. Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification: after we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

XIII. *Of the Church.*

¶ 13. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men in which the pure word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XIV. *Of Purgatory.*

¶ 14. The Romish doctrine concerning purgatory, pardon, worshiping and adoration, as well of images as of relics, and also invocation of saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warrant of Scripture, but repugnant to the word of God.

XV. *Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People understand.*

¶ 15. It is a thing plainly repugnant to the word of God, and the custom of the primitive Church, to have public prayer in the Church, or to administer the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Sacraments.*

¶ 16. Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they are certain signs of grace, and God's good will toward us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm, our faith in him.

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called Sacraments, that is to say, confirmation, penance, orders, matrimony, and ex-



treme unction, are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel; being such as have partly grown out of the *corrupt* following of the Apostles, and partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures, but yet have not the like nature of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, because they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about; but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same they have a wholesome effect or operation: but they that receive them unworthily, purchase to themselves condemnation, as St. Paul saith, 1 Cor. xi, 29.

#### XVII. *Of Baptism.*

¶ 17. Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the Church.

#### XVIII. *Of the Lord's Supper.*

¶ 18. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a Sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain

words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshiped.

*XIX. Of both Kinds.*

¶ 19. The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the Lay People; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.

*XX. Of the one Oblation of Christ, finished upon the Cross.*

¶ 20. The offering of Christ, once made, is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of masses, in the which it is commonly said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.

*XXI. Of the Marriage of Ministers.*

¶ 21. The Ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage: therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness.

XXII. *Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches.*

¶ 22. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's word. Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the Church to which he belongs, which are not repugnant to the word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly (that others may fear to do the like), as one that offendeth against the common order of the Church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.

Every particular Church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification.

XXIII. *Of the Rulers of the United States of America.*

¶ 23. The President, the Congress, the General Assemblies, the Governors, and the Councils of State, *as the Delegates of the People*, are the Rulers of the United States of America, according to the division of power made to them by the Constitution of the United States, and by the Constitutions of their respective States. And the said States are a sovereign and independent Nation, and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction.\*

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\* As far as it respects civil affairs we believe it the duty of Christians, and especially of all Christian Ministers, to be subject to the supreme authority of the country where they may reside, and to use all laudable means to enjoin obedience to the powers that be; and therefore it is expected that all our Preachers and People, who may be under the British or any other Government, will behave themselves as peaceable and orderly subjects.

XXIV. *Of Christian Men's Goods.*

¶ 24. The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

XXV. *Of a Christian Man's Oath.*

¶ 25. As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ and James his Apostle; so we judge that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the Prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment, and truth.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE GENERAL RULES.

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**The Nature, Design, and General Rules of our United Societies.\***

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¶ 26. In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption, came to Mr. Wesley in London. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with

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\* The United Societies founded in this country by the apostolic Asbury and his colabors were, in 1784, organized into the Methodist Episcopal Church. But in this chapter, and occasionally elsewhere in the Discipline, the words *Society* and *Societies* are retained as the equivalent of the words *Church* and *Churches*, both as a convenience, and as a memorial of our early ecclesiastical life.—Com. of Revision, 1892.



them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come together; which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on *Thursday*, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), he gave those advices from time to time which he judged most needful for them; and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

¶ 27. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than “*a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*”

¶ 28. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a Class, one of whom is styled THE LEADER. It is his duty,

§ 1. To see each person in his Class once a week at least; in order, (1.) To inquire how his soul prospers. (2.) To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require. (3.) To receive what he is willing to give toward the relief of the Preachers, Church, and poor.\*

§ 2. To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week; in order, (1.) To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly

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\* This part refers to towns and cities, where the poor are generally numerous and Church expenses considerable.

and will not be reproved. (2.) To pay the Stewards what he has received of his Class in the week preceding.

¶ 29. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these Societies—"a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits.

¶ 30. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced; such as,

✓ The taking of the name of God in vain.

✓ The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein or by buying or selling.

Drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.

Slaveholding; buying or selling slaves.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using many words in buying or selling.

The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.

The giving or taking things on usury—that is, unlawful interest.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of Magistrates or of Ministers.

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as:

The putting on of gold and costly apparel.

The taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.

Softness and needless self-indulgence; laying up treasure upon earth; borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

¶ 31. It is expected of all who continue in these Societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Second: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men:

To their bodies of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison:

To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good unless *our hearts be free to it.*"

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others; buying one of another; helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own and them *only.*

By all possible diligence and frugality, that the Gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them *falsely*, for the Lord's sake.

¶ 32. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Third; By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are,

The Public Worship of God;

The Ministry of the Word, either read or expounded;

The Supper of the Lord;

Family and private Prayer;

Searching the Scriptures;

Fasting or Abstinence.

¶ 33. These are the General Rules of our Societies; all which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observes them not, who habitually breaks any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But if then he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

## CHAPTER III.

### SPECIAL ADVICES.

#### I. Temperance.

¶ 34. Temperance, in its broader meaning, is distinctively a Christian virtue, enjoined in the Holy Scriptures. It implies a subordination of all the emotions, passions, and appetites to the control of reason and conscience. Dietetically, it means a wise use of suitable articles of



food and drink, with entire abstinence from such as are known to be hurtful. Both science and human experience agree with the Holy Scriptures in condemning all alcoholic beverages as being neither useful nor safe. The business of manufacturing and of vending such liquors is also against the principles of morality, political economy, and the public welfare. We therefore regard voluntary total abstinence from all intoxicants as the true ground of personal temperance, and complete legal prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic drinks as the duty of civil government. We heartily approve of all lawful and Christian efforts to save society from the manifold and grievous evils resulting from intemperance, and earnestly advise our people to cooperate in all measures which may seem to them wisely adapted to secure that end. We refer to our General Rule on this subject (¶ 30), and affectionately urge its strict observance by all our Members. Finally, we are fully persuaded that, under God, hope for the ultimate success of the Temperance Reform rests chiefly upon the combined and sanctified influence of the Family, the Church, and the State.

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## II. Dress.

¶ 35. Let all our people be exhorted to conform to the spirit of the apostolic precept, not to adorn themselves "with gold, or pearls, or costly array" (1 Tim. ii, 9).

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## III. Marriage.

¶ 36. We do not prohibit our people from marrying persons who are not of our Church, provided such persons have the form, and are seeking the power, of godliness; but we are determined to discourage their mar-

rying persons who do not come up to this description. Many of our Members have married *unawakened* persons. This has produced bad effects; they have been either hindered for life, or have turned back to perdition.

¶ 37. To discourage such marriages, 1. Let every Minister publicly enforce the Apostle's caution, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor. vi, 14). 2. Let all be exhorted to take no step in so weighty a matter without advising with the more serious of their brethren.

¶ 38. In general a woman ought not to marry without the consent of her parents. Yet there may be exceptions. For if, 1. A woman believe it to be her duty to marry; if, 2. Her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian: then she may, nay, ought to marry without their consent. Yet even then a Methodist Minister ought not to be married to her.

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#### IV. Divorce.

¶ 39. No divorce, except for adultery, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the cause of adultery, nor to divorced parties seeking to be reunited in marriage.

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#### V. Slavery.

¶ 40. We declare that we are as much as ever convinced of the great evil of Slavery. We believe that the buying, selling, or holding of human beings, to be used as chattels, is contrary to the laws of God and nature, and inconsistent with the Golden Rule, and with that

Rule in our Discipline which requires all who desire to continue among us to "do no harm," and to "avoid evil of every kind." We therefore affectionately admonish all our Ministers and people to keep themselves pure from this great evil, and to seek its extirpation by all lawful and Christian means.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### MEMBERSHIP.

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#### I. Reception on Probation.

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¶ 41. In order to prevent improper persons from gaining admission into the Church, and in order to the exercise of the power of godly admonition and discipline,

§ 1. Let great care be taken in receiving persons on Probation, and let no one be enrolled as a Probationer unless he give satisfactory evidence of an earnest desire to be saved from his sins, and to enjoy the fellowship of God's people.

§ 2. Let the Pastor and the Class Leaders see that all persons on Probation be early made acquainted with the doctrines, rules, and regulations of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

§ 3. Probationers are expected to conform carefully to all the rules and usages of the Church; they are entitled to all its spiritual privileges and aids; but they may not be members of the Quarterly Conference, nor take part in judicial proceedings except as witnesses.

## II. Admission into Full Membership.

¶ 42, § 1. Let no one be admitted into Full Membership in the Church until he has been at least six months on Probation, has been recommended by the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting, or, where no such meeting is held, by his Leader, has been baptized, and, on examination by the Pastor before the Church, has given satisfactory assurances both of the correctness of his faith and of his willingness to observe and keep the rules of the Church. ¶ 445.

§ 2. Nevertheless, a Member in good standing in any Orthodox Evangelical Church desiring to unite with us may, on giving satisfactory answers to the usual inquiries (¶ 445), be received at once into Full Membership.

§ 3. Let the Pastor and the Committee on Church Records be careful to see that the names of all persons received into the Church are duly recorded; and the Pastor shall report at each Quarterly Conference all changes that have occurred in the membership during the quarter. ¶ 193, § 26.

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## III. Baptized Children and the Church.

¶ 43. We hold that all children, by virtue of the unconditional benefits of the atonement, are members of the kingdom of God, and therefore graciously entitled to Baptism; but, as Infant Baptism contemplates a course of religious instruction and discipline, it is expected of all parents or guardians who present their children for Baptism that they will use all diligence in bringing them up in conformity to the word of God; and they should be solemnly admonished of this obligation, and earnestly exhorted to faithfulness therein.



¶ 44. We regard all children who have been baptized as placed in visible covenant relation to God, and under the special care and supervision of the Church.

¶ 45. The Pastor shall make an accurate register of the names of all the baptized children within his pastoral care; giving the dates of their birth and baptism, the names of their parents, and the places of their residence. And he shall give a certificate of such registration to the parents of all such children removing from his Charge, which certificate shall transfer the relation of said children to the Charge to which they are removed.

¶ 46. The Pastor shall organize the baptized children of the Church, when they shall have reached the age of ten years, or at an earlier age, when it is deemed advisable, into Classes, and appoint suitable Leaders (male or female), whose duty it shall be to meet them in Class once a week, and instruct them in the nature, design, and obligations of Baptism, and in the truths of religion necessary to make them "wise unto salvation;" to urge them to give regular attendance upon the means of grace; to advise, exhort, and encourage them to an immediate consecration of their hearts and lives to God, and to inquire into the state of their religious experience; *provided*, that unbaptized children shall not be excluded from these Classes.

¶ 47. Whenever baptized children shall understand the obligations of religion, and shall give evidence of piety, they may be admitted into Full Membership in the Church, on the recommendation of a Leader with whom they have met at least six months in Class, upon publicly assenting before the Church to the Baptismal Covenant, and also to the usual questions on Doctrines and Discipline. ¶ 444.



¶ 48. Whenever a baptized child shall, by orphanage or otherwise, become deprived of Christian guardianship, the Pastor shall ascertain and report to the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting the facts in the case; and such provision shall be made for the Christian training of the child as the circumstances of the case admit and require.

#### IV. Transfer of Membership by Certificate.

¶ 49, § 1. An acceptable Member of the Church desiring to remove his membership from one Pastoral Charge to another is entitled to a Certificate from the Pastor, or, if there is no Pastor, from the Presiding Elder, in the following form :

*" This certifies that A. B., the bearer, is an acceptable Member of the.....Methodist Episcopal Church in ..... , and is affectionately commended to the fellowship of the Methodist Episcopal Church in..... , or in any other place where he may take up his residence. When admitted to another Church his relation to this Church will cease."*

A footnote shall be subjoined to the Certificate as follows:

NOTE.—This is not a letter of dismissal, and does not terminate the connection of the Member with the Church which gives it.

§ 2. When a Pastor shall have received a Member on said Certificate, he shall notify the Pastor of the Church from which it was issued in the following form:

*" You are hereby notified that A. B. has been duly enrolled as a Member of this Church upon a Certificate issued from the Church of which you are Pastor, and signed by ..... "*

§ 3. This Certificate of Church Membership shall not be valid for a longer period than one year; but if for

any cause it has been impracticable to present it to another Church within that time, it should be renewed by the Pastor of the Church from which it was issued.

§ 4. During the time in which a Member shall hold a Certificate his membership shall be in the Church which issued said Certificate; and if charges are presented against him during this time, he cannot avoid trial thereon before said Church by presenting the Certificate to another Church. But when a Member shall have been duly received on Certificate by any Church he shall be responsible to such Church for his previous conduct.

§ 5. The Pastor shall inform Members about to change their residence that without a Certificate of Membership they will not be received as Members of the Church in another place; and shall also inform them of the period during which such Certificate will be valid, and of the conditions under which, if it has become invalid, it may be renewed.

§ 6. The Pastor who gives a Certificate shall, if practicable, give notice of the fact to the Pastor of the Charge to which the Member receiving the Certificate shall have removed. If a Member of the Church shall remove from a Charge without applying for a Certificate of Membership, the Pastor of such Charge shall, if practicable, inform the Pastor of the Charge within whose bounds said Member has taken up his residence.

§ 7. If the residence of the Member who has thus removed cannot be ascertained for one year, the words "Removed without Certificate" shall be written against his name in the Record of Church Membership; and such name shall not be counted in the returns of statistics. But membership in the Church can be terminated only by the withdrawal, expulsion, or death of the Member.

§ 8. A Certificate of Membership may not be refused,

if demanded by a Member removing his residence, except for reasons that justify and require judicial proceedings against such Member.

§ 9. A Certificate of membership shall not be given unless a change of the place of holding membership is actually intended.

§ 10. A Pastor may give a Note of Recommendation to any Member who wishes to unite with any other Evangelical Denomination.

§ 11. When any Member in good standing proposes to withdraw from the Methodist Episcopal Church he shall communicate his purpose in writing to the Pastor of the Church. On receiving such notice of withdrawal, the Pastor shall enter the fact of withdrawal upon the Record of Church membership; and such withdrawal cannot be retracted except by consent of the Pastor and the Quarterly Conference.

§ 12. Whenever a Pastor is appointed to another Charge he may complete the record of his Pastorate by entering in the Church Record opposite the names of the members of his family who are Church Members: "Member of Pastor's family transferred to . . . . .;" and enter the names on the Record of his new Charge with the note: "Member of Pastor's family transferred from . . . . ."

## V. Classes and Class Meetings.

¶ 50. The design of the organization of Classes and the appointment of Leaders is,

§ 1. To establish a system of pastoral oversight that shall effectively reach every Member of the Church.

§ 2. To establish and keep up a meeting for social and religious worship, for instruction, encouragement, and

admonition, that shall be a profitable means of grace to our people.

§ 3. To aid, when desired, in carrying out the Financial Plan of the Church. ¶ 284.

¶ 51. The primary object of distributing the Members of the Church into Classes is to secure the subpastoral oversight made necessary by our itinerant economy. In order to secure this oversight,

§ 1. Let the Classes, wherever practicable, be composed of not more than twenty persons, and let the Leader report at each Quarterly Conference the condition of his Class as follows:

1. Number of Members in his Class.
2. Number of Probationers.
3. Average attendance.
4. Number habitually absent.
5. Number of Class Meetings held.
6. Number who contribute to the support of the Church.
7. Number of visits made.
8. Number of heads of families in the Class, and how many of them observe family worship.
9. Number of Church papers taken by Class members.
10. Miscellaneous matters.

§ 2. Let each Leader be careful to inquire how every member of his Class prospers; not only how each person outwardly observes the Rules, but also how he grows in the knowledge and love of God.

§ 3. Let the Leaders converse with their Pastors frequently and freely.

¶ 52. In order to render our Class Meetings interesting and profitable, let the Pastor, 1. Remove improper Leaders. 2. See that all the Leaders be of sound judgment and truly devoted to God.



¶ 53. In the arrangement of Class Meetings two or more Classes may meet together, and be conducted according to such plan as shall be agreed upon by the Leaders in concurrence with the Pastor.

¶ 54. Let care be observed that they do not fall into formality through the use of a uniform method. Let speaking be voluntary or the exercises conversational, the Leader taking such measures as may best assist in making the services fresh, spiritual, and of permanent religious profit.

¶ 55. Let the Leaders be directed to such a course of reading and study as shall best qualify them for their work; especially let such books be recommended as will tend to increase their knowledge of the Scriptures and make them familiar with those passages best adapted to Christian edification. Whenever practicable let the Pastors examine the Leaders in the studies recommended. (Appendix ¶ 71.)

## CHAPTER V.

### WORSHIP.

#### I. Order of Public Worship.

¶ 56. In order to establish uniformity in public worship among us on the Lord's Day,

§ 1. We earnestly recommend the following Order of Morning Service:

[N. B.—Parts inclosed in brackets may be omitted.]

1. [VOLUNTARY.]

2. SINGING from the HYMNAL, the People standing.



## 3. [The APOSTLES' CREED.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth :

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord ; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary ; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried ; the third day he rose from the dead ; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty ; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost ; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints ; the forgiveness of sins ; the resurrection of the body ; and the life everlasting. Amen.]

4. PRAYER, concluding with the Lord's Prayer repeated audibly by all, both Minister and People kneeling.

5. [ANTHEM.]

6. LESSON from the OLD TESTAMENT, which, if from the Psalms, may be read responsively.

7. [The GLORIA PATRI.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost ; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.]

8. LESSON from the NEW TESTAMENT.

9. COLLECTION and NOTICES.

10. SINGING from the HYMNAL, the People standing

11. SERMON.

12. SHORT PRAYER for a blessing on the word.

13. SINGING (the People standing), closing with the DOXOLOGY.

14. The APOSTOLIC BENEDICTION.

§ 2. Let the Afternoon or Evening service follow the same order, except that either of the Scripture lessons may be omitted.

§ 3. At the service during which the Sacraments are administered any of the items of the preceding order

may be omitted except singing, prayer, and the apostolic benediction.

§ 4. In administering the Sacraments, and in the Burial of the Dead, let our form of Ritual invariably be used.

§ 5. Let the people be earnestly exhorted to take part in the public worship of God: first, in singing; secondly, in prayer, in the scriptural attitude of kneeling, by the repetition of the Lord's Prayer.

§ 6. Let the Society be met, wherever it is practicable, on the Sabbath day.

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## II. The Spirit and Truth of Singing.

¶ 57. To guard against formality in singing,

§ 1. Choose such hymns as are proper for the occasion, and do not sing too much at once; seldom more than four or five stanzas.

§ 2. Let the tune be suited to the sentiment, and do not suffer the people to sing too slowly.

§ 3. In every Congregation let due attention be given to the cultivation of sacred music.

§ 4. Should the Pastor desire it, let the Quarterly Conference appoint annually a Committee of three or more, of which Committee the Pastor shall be chairman, and they cooperating with him shall regulate all matters relating to this part of divine worship. The action of said Committee shall be in every respect subject to the control of the Quarterly Conference.

§ 5. As singing is a part of divine worship in which all ought to unite, therefore exhort every person in the Congregation to sing, not one in ten only.



## **PART II.**

# **THE CONFERENCES.**

- I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.
- II. ANNUAL CONFERENCES.
- III. MISSION CONFERENCES.
- IV. CENTRAL MISSION CONFERENCES.
- V. DISTRICT CONFERENCES.
- VI. QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.
- VII. THE LEADERS AND STEWARDS' MEETING.
- VIII. THE OFFICIAL BOARD.



## CHAPTER I.

## THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

¶ 58. The General Conference shall be composed of Ministerial and Lay Delegates.

¶ 59. The Ministerial Delegates shall consist of one Delegate for every forty-five Members of each Annual Conference, to be appointed either by seniority or choice at the discretion of such Annual Conference, yet so that such Representatives shall have traveled at least four full calendar years from the time that they were received on Trial by an Annual Conference, and are in Full Connection at the time of holding the Conference.\*

¶ 60. The Lay Delegates shall consist of two Laymen for each Annual Conference, except such Conferences as have but one Ministerial Delegate, which Conferences shall each be entitled to one Lay Delegate.

¶ 61. The Lay Delegates shall be chosen by an Electoral Conference of Laymen, which shall assemble for the purpose on the third day of the session of the Annual Conference, at the place of its meeting, at its session immediately preceding that of the General Conference.

¶ 62. The Electoral Conference shall be composed of one Layman from each Circuit or Station within the bounds of the Annual Conference, such Layman to be chosen by the last Quarterly Conference preceding the

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\* A Transferred Minister shall not be counted twice in the same year in the basis of the election of Delegates to the General Conference, nor vote for Delegates to the General Conference in any Annual Conference where he is not counted as a part of the basis of representation, nor vote twice the same year on any constitutional question.

time of the assembling of such Electoral Conference; and on assembling, the Electoral Conference shall organize by electing a Chairman and Secretary of its own number; *provided*, that no Layman shall be chosen a Delegate either to the Electoral Conference or to the General Conference who shall be under twenty-five years of age, or who shall not have been a Member of the Church in Full Connection for the five consecutive years preceding the elections.\*

¶ 63. The General Conference shall meet on the first Wednesday of May, in the year of our Lord 1900, and thenceforward on the first Wednesday in May once in four years perpetually, at such hour and in such place in the United States as the General Conference may from time to time direct; but the General Superintendents, or a majority of them, by and with the advice of two thirds of all the Annual Conferences, shall have power to call an extra session of the General Conference, to be constituted in the usual way. But if there shall be no General Superintendent, then two thirds of all the Annual Conferences shall have power to call such extra session.

¶ 64. At all times when the General Conference is met it shall take two thirds of the whole number of Ministerial and Lay Delegates to form a quorum for transacting business.

¶ 65. The Ministerial and Lay Delegates shall deliberate and vote together as one body; but they shall vote separately whenever such separate vote shall be demanded by one third of either Order; and in such cases

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\* The Secretaries of the several Annual and Electoral Conferences shall send to the Secretary of the last General Conference a certified copy of the election of Delegates and Reserves to the next General Conference, in the order of their election, as soon after the election as practicable, so that a roll of Delegates and Reserves may be prepared for the opening of the next General Conference,

the concurrent vote of both Orders shall be necessary to complete an action.

¶ 66. One of the General Superintendents shall preside in the General Conference; but in case no General Superintendent be present, the General Conference shall choose a president *pro tempore*.

¶ 67. The General Conference shall have full power to make rules and regulations for our Church under the following limitations and restrictions, namely:

§ 1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, nor change our Articles of Religion, nor establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.

§ 2. The General Conference shall not allow of more than one Ministerial Representative for every fourteen Members of an Annual Conference; nor of a less number than one for every forty-five; nor of more than two Lay Delegates for an Annual Conference; *provided*, nevertheless, that when there shall be in any Annual Conference a fraction of two thirds the number which shall be fixed for the ratio of representation, such Annual Conference shall be entitled to an additional Delegate for such fraction; and *provided*, also, that no Conference shall be denied the privilege of one Ministerial and of one Lay Delegate.

§ 3. The General Conference shall not change nor alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away Episcopacy, nor destroy the plan of our itinerant General Superintendency; but may appoint a Missionary Bishop or Superintendent for any of our Foreign Missions, limiting his Episcopal jurisdiction to the same respectively.

§ 4. The General Conference shall not revoke nor change the General Rules of the United Societies.

¶ 67, § 5. GENERAL CONFERENCE.

§ 5. The General Conference shall not do away the privileges of our Ministers or Preachers of trial by a Committee, and of an Appeal; neither shall they do away the privileges of our Members of trial before the Society or by a Committee, and of an Appeal.

§ 6. The General Conference shall not appropriate the produce of the Book Concern, nor of the Chartered Fund, to any purpose other than for the benefit of Traveling, Supernumerary, Superannuated and Worn Out Preachers, their wives, widows, and children.

¶ 68. *Provided*, nevertheless, that upon the concurrent recommendation of three fourths of all the Members of the several Annual Conferences who shall be present and vote on such recommendation, then a majority of two thirds of the General Conference succeeding shall suffice to alter any of the above Restrictions, excepting the First Article; and also, whenever such alteration or alterations shall have been first recommended by two thirds of the General Conference, so soon as three fourths of the Members of all the Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect.

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

¶ 69. There are now one hundred and twenty-three Annual Conferences, and these shall severally become bodies corporate, wherever practicable, under the authority of the laws of the States and Territories within whose bounds they are located.

¶ 70. For the purpose of representation on the Book



Committee and on the General Committees for Missions, for Church Extension, and for Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education, the Annual Conferences shall be grouped into as many General Conference Districts as the General Conference may from time to time direct.

¶ 71. All Members of an Annual Conference and those on Trial therein shall attend its sessions.

¶ 72. No Annual Conference shall be organized with less than twenty effective Members.

¶ 73. The Bishops shall appoint the times for holding the Annual Conferences; but they shall allow each Annual Conference to sit one week at least.

¶ 74. Each Annual Conference shall appoint the place of its own session; but should it become necessary, from any unforeseen cause, to change the place of its session after it has been fixed by the Conference, the Pastor or Pastors in the place where the Conference was appointed to be held, and the Presiding Elder of the District, shall have power to make such change. But this authority shall not be exercised without first consulting the other Presiding Elders of the Conference so far as practicable.

¶ 75. A Bishop shall preside in the Annual Conference. In case no Bishop is present, a Member of the Conference, appointed by the Bishop, shall preside. But if no appointment is made, or the person appointed does not attend, the Conference shall elect a President by ballot from among the Elders, without debate.

¶ 76. A record of the proceedings of each Annual Conference shall be kept by a Secretary chosen for the purpose, and shall be signed by the President and Secretary; and a copy of said record shall be sent to the General Conference. Journals not thus attested cannot be approved by the General Conference.



¶ 77. The business of the Annual Conference is, inquire,

1. Who have been Received by Transfer, and from what Conferences?

2. Who have been Readmitted?

NOTE.—Here enter date of Location and the Conference which granted it.

3. Who have been Received on Credentials, and from what Churches?

4. Who have been Received on Trial?

(a) In studies of First Year.

(b) In studies of Third Year. ¶ 165, § 2.

5. Who have been Continued on Trial?

(a) In studies of First Year.

(b) In studies of Second Year.

(c) In studies of Third Year.

(d) In studies of Fourth Year.

6. Who have been Discontinued?

7. Who have been Admitted into Full Membership?

(a) Elected and ordained Deacons this year.

(b) Elected and ordained Deacons previously.

8. What Members are in studies of Third Year?

(a) Admitted into Full Membership this year.

(b) Admitted into Full Membership previously.

9. What Members are in studies of Fourth Year?

10. What Members have completed the Conference Course of Study?

(a) Elected and ordained Elders this year.

(b) Elected and ordained Elders previously.

11. What others have been elected and ordained Deacons?

(a) As Local Preachers. ¶ 165, § 1.

(b) Under Missionary Rule. ¶ 165, § 4.

12. What others have been elected and ordained Elders?

(a) As Local Deacons. ¶ 168, § 1.

(b) Under Missionary Rule. ¶ 168, § 4.

13. Was the character of each Preacher examined?

14. Who have been Transferred, and to what Conferences?

15. Who have Died?

16. Who have been Located at their own request?

17. Who have been Located?

18. Who have Withdrawn?

19. Who have been permitted to Withdraw under Charges or Complaints?

20. Who have been Expelled?

21. What other Personal Notation should be made?

NOTE.—Here enter with adequate statement of facts the names: I. Of those whose Orders have been recognized without admission to the Annual Conference. II. Of those whose Credentials have been restored. III. Of those formerly expelled, but now restored by the action of a Judicial or a General Conference.

22. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?

23. Who are the Superannuated Preachers?

24. Who are the Triers of Appeals?

25. What is the Statistical Report for this year?

NOTE.—For order of Statistical Report, see ¶ 85.

26. What is the aggregate of the Benevolent Collections ordered by the General Conference, as reported by the Conference Treasurer?

27. What are the claims on the Conference Fund?

28. What has been received on these claims, and how has it been applied?

29. Where are the Preachers stationed?

30. Where shall the next Conference be held?

¶ 78. An Annual Conference has power to hear com-

plaints against its Members, and may try, reprove, suspend, deprive of Ministerial Office and Credentials, expel, or acquit any of them against whom charges may be preferred.

¶ 79. The Electing and, so far as it is practicable, the Ordaining of Elders and Deacons is to be done in the Annual Conference.

¶ 80. Each Annual Conference shall appoint annually, for each of its Districts, a Board of Church Location, which shall consist of the Presiding Elder, who shall be Chairman, and not less than two nor more than five Ministers, and an equal number of Laymen. The duty of said Board shall be to prevent, as far as possible, the selection of improper sites, and to consider and determine all questions relating to the selection of new church locations which may be referred to it by the Presiding Elder or by the vote of any Quarterly Conference. The decision of said Board in regard to the location of a church edifice shall be final, unless overruled by the Annual Conference.

¶ 81. Each Annual Conference shall carefully observe the obligations laid upon it in the chapter on Missionary Work.

¶ 82. In each Annual Conference, the Bishop presiding shall inquire whether the disciplinary plan for the support of our benevolent causes is carried out in every District and Pastoral Charge: and of each Presiding Elder, whether he has urged in the Quarterly Conference the collection in full for all the benevolent causes.

¶ 83. Each Annual Conference shall report, through its Statistical Secretary, to the Sunday School Union, the number of Schools within its bounds, together with other facts named in the form published by the Union,

and contained in the annual reports of Pastors, as directed in ¶ 85.

¶ 84. That the Statistics may be accurately reported and the Benevolent Collections duly accounted for, let the following Rules be observed:

§ 1. Each Annual Conference shall appoint a Statistical Secretary and a Conference Treasurer, whose names and addresses shall be printed in the General Minutes at the head of its Statistical Tables.

§ 2. On the first day of the Conference session, each Pastor shall present his Statistical and Financial Reports correctly and plainly written, all collections and other moneys being reported in dollars only, without fractions thereof.

§ 3. In connection with his report of the amount collected for each of our benevolent causes, the Pastor shall deliver to the Conference Treasurer either the money thus raised or a satisfactory voucher for the same; and the credit given to his Charge shall exactly correspond with the money and vouchers thus delivered.

§ 4. At the opening of the second day's session the Bishop presiding shall call upon the Statistical Secretary and the Conference Treasurer respectively to read the names of all Charges from which reports have not been received, or from which incorrect or defective reports have been made. This call shall be made at the beginning of each day's session until correct reports have been received from every Charge.

§ 5. In case any Charge fails to make a report the Statistical Secretary shall fill up the blanks from the report of the preceding year, omitting the collections; and he shall indicate such filling up by putting the figures in brackets.



¶ 84, § 6. ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

§ 6. When the name of a Charge has been changed the Statistical Secretary shall cause the former name to be printed in a parenthesis under the present one.

§ 7. The Statistical Secretary and the Conference Treasurer shall compare the reports of collections made for the Statistical Tables with the accounts of money and vouchers received by the Treasurer, so that discrepancies, if any shall be found, may be corrected before publication.

§ 8. The Conference Treasurer shall receive and account for such other moneys, additional to the regular benevolent collections, as the Conference may direct; and a Committee, appointed by the Conference, shall audit his accounts.

§ 9. The Publishing Agents shall provide, 1. Statistical Blanks for the Pastor and the Statistical Secretary; 2. Blank "Financial Report" for each Pastor, with suitable "Envelopes" also printed in blank; 3. Blanks for the Treasurer's Accounts.

§ 10. When the provisions of § 3 shall have been complied with, the Conference Treasurer shall return the "Financial Report" to the Pastor with the word "Credited" either written or stamped over the Treasurer's signature as a voucher for the Quarterly Conference of the contributing Charge.

¶ 85. The Statistical Report to the Conference shall be in the following form:

NOTE 1.—Statistics Nos. I and IV and a summary of No. III must be published in the General Minutes.

NOTE 2.—The several Annual Conferences are required *invariably* to publish Statistics Nos. I, III, and IV in their own Minutes. The publication of Statistics No. II is optional with the respective Conferences.

NOTE 3.—Statistical Secretaries of the Annual Conferences must furnish Statistics No. II to the Secretary of the Sunday School Union for use in his office.



**Statistics No. I.—Church Membership, etc.**

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.**

Number of Probationers.  
Number of Full Members.  
Number of Local Preachers.  
Number of Deaths.

**BAPTISMS.**

Number of Children.  
Number of Adults.

**SUNDAY SCHOOLS.**

Number of Schools.  
Number of Officers and Teachers.  
Number of Scholars.

**CHURCH PROPERTY.**

Number of Churches.  
Probable Value.  
Number of Parsonages.  
Probable Value.  
Amount paid on Building and Improvements.  
Amount paid on old Indebtedness.  
Present Indebtedness.

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**Statistics No. II.—Sunday Schools.**

Number of Schools.  
Number of Officers and Teachers.  
Number of Scholars of all grades.  
Average attendance.  
Number of members in the Home Department.  
Number of Officers and Teachers who are Church Members or Probationers.

Number of scholars (whether attendants or members in the Home Department) who are Church Members or Probationers.

Number of Members of the Sunday School converted during the year.

Current expenses. \_\_\_\_\_

### Statistics No. III.—Church Expenses.

NOTE 1.—The General Conference has ordered that in reporting the amount raised in each Pastoral Charge for "Ministerial Support" the amount reported shall include the several sums raised for the support of the Pastor, for the support of the Presiding Elder, and for the support of the Bishops; and shall also include the rent paid for a House for the Pastor; and in case the Pastor occupies a Parsonage, then it shall include, instead of rent paid, a sum equal to a fair rental value of the said Parsonage. Missionary appropriations are not to be included.

NOTE 2.—Any Conference desiring to do so may use separate columns, in Statistics No. III, for House Rent and Traveling Expenses.

#### SUPPORT OF PASTOR.

Claims:

Salary.

House Rent.

Total.

Receipts:

Salary.

House Rent.

Total.

Deficiencies.

#### SUPPORT OF PRESIDING ELDERS.

Amount Apportioned.

Amount Paid.

#### SUPPORT OF BISHOPS.

Amount Apportioned.

Amount Paid.

Total Support Paid as above.

#### CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS.

Received from Collections.

Received from other sources.

Total Receipts.

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Church:

Sexton, Fuel, Light, etc.

Sunday School:

Lesson Leaves, Books, etc.

Total.

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Statistics No. IV.—Benevolent Collections, etc.

Missionary Society:

a. Church.

b. Sunday School.

Church Extension.

Sunday School Union.

Tract Society.

Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.

Education:

a. Public Educational Collection.

b. Children's Fund.

American Bible Society.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Woman's Home Missionary Society.

Total Disciplinary Collections.

Other Benevolent Collections.

Total Benevolent Collections.

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General Conference Expenses.

Conference Claimants.

Episcopal Fund.

NOTE.—Applications for blanks are to be made to Methodist Book Concern, New York, by the Secretary of each Conference, for distribution among the Pastors. Orders for the Spring Conferences should be made by October 1, and will then be filled by December 1. Orders for the Fall Conferences should be made by March 1, and will then be filled by June 1. Applications must state the name of Conference, number of Districts, number of Charges, and how many of the Districts have over forty Charges.

### CHAPTER III. MISSION CONFERENCES.

¶ 86, § 1. Any Mission established under the provisions of the Discipline (¶¶ 354, 355), may be constituted a Mission Conference by the General Conference.

§ 2. A Mission Conference is authorized to exercise the powers of an Annual Conference (¶¶ 76-85), subject to the approval of the Presiding Bishop, and its Members shall share *pro rata* in the proceeds of the Book Concern with Members of the Annual Conferences, but shall not elect Delegates to the General Conference nor vote on Constitutional changes.

§ 3. The Bishop having Episcopal supervision of a Mission Conference may appoint a Superintendent, who may also be the Presiding Elder of a District where there are two or more Districts. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to take the general supervision of the Conference, and yet not so as to interfere with the duties of the Presiding Elders, and to represent the state of the work and its needs to the Bishop having charge, and to the Corresponding Secretaries of the Missionary Society.

§ 4. If there is no Bishop present at an Annual Session of a Mission Conference the Superintendent shall preside; but if there is no Superintendent present the presidency shall be determined as in an Annual Conference. ¶ 75.

§ 5. Each Mission Conference at its Annual Session shall appoint a Standing Committee, whose duty it shall



## CENTRAL MISSION CONFERENCES. ¶ 87, § 1.

be, with the concurrence of the President of the Conference, to make an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of each Pastoral Charge, in full, or supplementary to the amount raised by the Charge thus aided; such estimates shall be subject to modification by the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society, and in the aggregate shall not exceed the amount appropriated by the General Missionary Committee; and the amount to be expended in a Mission Conference shall be paid in quarterly installments to the Superintendent, or to the Presiding Elders where there is no Superintendent.

§ 6. Any Charge within a Mission Conference may receive aid from the Missionary Society without having been designated in the estimates made by the Conference at its Annual Meeting.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### CENTRAL MISSION CONFERENCES.

¶ 87. When in any of our foreign Mission fields there is more than one Annual Conference or Mission, it shall be lawful, by order of the General Conference, to organize a Central Conference, to be composed either of all the Members of those Annual Conferences or Missions, or of Delegates from the same, elected according to such ratio as may be agreed upon between the constituent parties, who may also provide for the admission of Laymen to such Conference, the number of Lay Delegates not to exceed that of the Clerical Delegates.

§ 1. The first meeting of the Central Conference shall



## ¶ 87, § 2. CENTRAL MISSION CONFERENCES.

be called by the Bishop in charge, at such time and place as he may select, to which all the Members of the Conferences and Missions concerned shall be invited, and at which a ratio of representation shall be fixed by the Conference. The time and place of future meetings shall be determined by the Conference; *provided*, that it shall meet at least once in two years.

§ 2. A Bishop, if present, shall preside over the Conference; but in his absence the Conference shall elect a President from among its own members.

§ 3. This Conference may take under its supervision the educational, publishing, and such other connec-tional interests and work as may be committed to it by the Annual Conferences and Missions; but never in con-travention of the Book of Discipline, or the orders of the General Conference; and it shall have no authority to involve the Missionary Society in any financial responsi-bility, nor to hold or control the property of the Society without the official permission of said Society.

§ 4. In the Central Conference the right shall be re-served to vote by Conferences or Missions whenever one third of the Delegates of either Conference or Mission who are present shall so demand. In such cases the concurrent vote of all the Conferences and Missions present and voting shall be necessary to complete an action.

§ 5. A Central Conference may fix the boundaries of the Annual Conferences within its bounds, proposals for changes being first submitted to the Annual Conferences concerned as prescribed in ¶¶ 435-437; *provided*, how-ever, that the number of Annual Conferences which may be organized within the bounds of a Central Conference shall first have been determined by the General Confer-ence.

§ 6. When a Central Conference has been duly organized the organization shall not be discontinued except by order or consent of the General Conference.

§ 7. The Journal of the proceedings of this Central Conference, duly signed by the President and Secretary, shall be sent to the General Conference for its consideration.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

¶ 88. The District Conference shall be composed of the Traveling Ministers, the Local Preachers, the Exhorters, and the District Stewards within the District, together with one Sunday School Superintendent, one President of an Epworth League Chapter, and one Class Leader from each Pastoral Charge in the District. But if there shall be more than one Sunday School Superintendent or League President in any Charge, then the Quarterly Conference shall designate one of each for this service, and it shall also select the Class Leader.

¶ 89. The District Conference shall meet once or twice each year as it may determine. The Presiding Elder shall designate the time and place for the first meeting after the adoption of this plan by the District; but the District Conference shall at each meeting determine the place for its next meeting, the time to be fixed by the Presiding Elder.

¶ 90. If a Bishop be present at the District Conference, he shall preside. In the absence of a Bishop the Presiding Elder shall preside. If neither be present, the District Conference shall choose its own President by ballot from among the Traveling Elders.

¶ 91. A record of the proceedings of each District Conference shall be kept by a Secretary chosen for the purpose, and a copy of said record shall be sent to the ensuing Annual Conference.

¶ 92. The regular business of the District Conference shall be:

§ 1. To take the general oversight of all the temporal and spiritual affairs of the District, subject to the provisions of the Discipline.

§ 2. To take cognizance of all the Local Preachers and Exhorters in the District, as provided in ¶¶ 196-204, and to arrange a Plan of Appointments for each until the next District Conference.

§ 3. To inquire whether all the collections for the benevolent institutions of the Church, as recognized by the Discipline, are properly attended to in all the Pastoral Charges, and to adopt suitable measures for promoting their success.

§ 4. To inquire into the condition of the Sunday Schools in the District, and to adopt suitable measures for insuring their success.

§ 5. To inquire into the condition of the Epworth League Chapters in the District, and to adopt suitable measures for insuring their success.

§ 6. To inquire respecting opportunities for Missionary and Church Extension enterprises within the District, and to take measures for the occupation of any neglected portion of its territory by Mission Sunday Schools, and by appointments for Public Worship.

§ 7. To provide for appropriate religious and literary exercises during the session, for the mutual benefit of those in attendance.

¶ 93. The order of business for the District Conference shall be:

1. To inquire what members of the District Conference are present.

2. To appoint Committees on the

1. Examination of candidates for License to preach.

2. Examination of Local Preachers in each of the four years of the Course of Study.

3. Examination of candidates for Reception on Trial in the Annual Conference.

4. Examination of candidates for Orders.

5. Home Mission work.

6. Appointments of Local Preachers and Exhorters.

7. Apportionment to each Charge of the amounts to be raised for benevolent causes.

8. Program of religious and literary exercises for the next meeting.

9. Miscellaneous matters.

3. To receive Reports:

1. From the Presiding Elder, as to the condition of the work under his charge, and his own work as Presiding Elder.

2. From each Pastor, as to the religious condition of his Charge, his pastoral labors, the benevolent collections, and the circulation of our Church periodicals and books.

3. From each Local Preacher, according to the form prescribed in ¶ 200.

4. From each Exhorter, including a statement of the Prayer Meetings he has held, and other work done, especially in destitute places and among the sick and the poor. ¶ 204.

5. From each District Steward, as to the temporal affairs of the Charge he represents.

6. From each Superintendent, as to the condition



## ¶ 94. DISTRICT CONFERENCES.

of the Sunday Schools of the Charge he represents.

7. From each President of an Epworth League Chapter, as to the condition of the Chapters of the Charge he represents.

8. From each Class Leader, as to the condition of the Classes of the Charge he represents.

9. From each Committee.

4. To inquire concerning Local Preachers:

1. Are there any Charges or Complaints?

2. Who shall have their Licenses renewed?

3. Who shall be licensed to preach?

4. Who shall be recommended for Ordination?

5. Who shall be recommended for Recognition of Orders?

6. Who shall be recommended for Reception on Trial in the Annual Conference?

7. What work is assigned to each Local Preacher?

5. To inquire concerning Exhorters:

1. Who shall have their Licenses renewed?

2. What work is assigned to each Exhorter?

6. To fix the seat of the next District Conference.

7. To transact other appropriate business.

¶ 94. The order of business may be varied, and the business interspersed with such literary and religious exercises as the Conference may direct.

¶ 95. The provisions for District Conferences shall be of force and binding only in those Districts in which the Quarterly Conferences of a majority of the Circuits and Stations shall have approved the same by asking the Presiding Elder to convene a District Conference, as herein provided. A District Conference may be discontinued by a vote of a majority of the members present at any regular session, notice thereof having been given



## QUARTERLY CONFERENCES. ¶ 98, § 1.

at a previous session, and with the concurrence of a majority of the Quarterly Conferences in the District. In those Districts in which District Conferences shall be held the powers given to the District Conferences shall not be exercised by the Quarterly Conferences. In all other cases the powers of the Quarterly Conferences shall remain as hereinafter provided.

## CHAPTER VI.

### QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.

¶ 96. The Quarterly Conference shall be composed of all the Traveling Ministers, Local Preachers, Exhorters, Stewards, and Class Leaders within the Charge, together with the Trustees of the Churches, the first Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, and the Presidents of the Epworth League Chapters within the Charge; *provided*, that said Trustees, Superintendents, and Presidents are members of our Church in the Charge, and approved by the Quarterly Conference for membership therein. ¶ 98, §§ 3, 5, 6.

¶ 97. The Presiding Elder shall preside in the Quarterly Conference; or, he may appoint a Traveling Elder to preside; but in the absence of the Presiding Elder, and of the Traveling Elder so appointed, the Pastor shall preside.

§ 1. The Quarterly Conference shall appoint a Secretary, who shall take minutes of the proceedings thereof, and transmit them to the Recording Steward.

¶ 98. The regular business of the Quarterly Conference is:

§ 1. To hear complaints, and to receive and try Charges and Appeals, as directed in ¶¶ 236-243, 273.

## ¶ 98, § 2. QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.

§ 2. To take cognizance of all Local Preachers and Exhorters in the Circuit or Station, as provided in ¶¶ 196-204.

§ 3. To receive the Annual Report of the Trustees; to elect Trustees where the laws of the State permit; and at its discretion, to approve for membership in the Quarterly Conference Trustees who are Members of the Church within the Charge, but who were elected otherwise than by the Quarterly Conference. - ¶¶ 291-305.

§ 4. To elect Stewards for the Charge, and to elect one of these a District Steward, and one a Recording Steward. ¶¶ 276-281.

§ 5. To have oversight of all the Sunday Schools within the bounds of the Circuit or Station, and to inquire into the condition of each; to confirm or reject Sunday School Superintendents nominated by the Sunday School Board; at its discretion, to approve for membership in the Quarterly Conference Superintendents who are Members of the Church within the Charge; and to remove any Superintendent who may prove unworthy or inefficient. ¶¶ 343-347.

§ 6. To have general oversight of the Epworth League Chapters and other organizations of young people; to confirm or reject Presidents of the Epworth League elected by the Chapters; at its discretion, to approve for membership in the Quarterly Conference Presidents who are Members of the Church within the Charge; and to remove any President who may prove unworthy or inefficient. ¶¶ 339-342.

§ 7. To observe carefully all the obligations laid by the Discipline upon the Quarterly Conference in reference to the support of the Ministry and of our benevolent causes.

§ 8. To appoint at the Fourth Quarterly Conference

Committees on (1) Missions. ¶¶ 367-374. (2) On Church Extension. ¶¶ 401, 402. (3) On Sunday Schools. ¶¶ 345-347. (4) On Tracts. ¶ 434. (5) On Temperance. ¶ 193, § 18. (6) On Education. ¶ 338. (7) On Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society. ¶¶ 407, 408. (8) On Church Records. ¶ 100. (9) On Parsonages and Furniture. ¶ 321. (10) On Church Music. ¶ 57. (11) On Estimating the Pastors' Salaries. ¶ 291. (12) On Estimating the amount necessary for Conference Claimants. ¶ 294.

¶ 99. The Order of Business in the Quarterly Conference, after the Roll of Members has been called and a Secretary appointed, shall be to inquire:

NOTE.—Questions, or items under questions, marked thus [-1-] are to be considered at the first Quarterly Conference; those marked [-1, 2, 3-] at the first, second, and third Quarterly Conferences; those marked [-4-] at the fourth Quarterly Conference; all other questions and items, at each Quarterly Conference.

1. What Trustees are approved as members of the Quarterly Conference? ¶ 98, § 3.

2. Who are confirmed as Sunday School Superintendents? ¶ 98, § 5.

3. What Superintendents are approved as members of the Quarterly Conference? ¶ 98, § 5.

4. Who are confirmed as Presidents of Epworth League Chapters? ¶ 98, § 6.

5. What Presidents of Epworth League Chapters are approved as members of the Quarterly Conference? ¶ 98, § 6.

6. Are there any Complaints?

7. Are there any Appeals?

8. [-1-] What is the Complete Record of Ministerial Support for the past year?

1. Paid to Pastor.

## **¶ 99. QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.**

2. Paid to Assistant.
3. Paid to Presiding Elder.
4. Paid to Episcopal Fund.
5. Paid to Conference Claimants.
9. Are there any Reports?
  1. From the Pastor. ¶ 193, § 26.
  2. From the Local Preachers. ¶ 200.
  3. From the Exhorters. ¶ 204.
  4. From the Sunday School Superintendents. ¶ 344, § 5.
  5. From the Presidents of Epworth League Chapters. ¶ 342.
  6. From the Class Leaders. ¶ 51.
  7. [-4-] From the Trustees. ¶ 305.
  8. [-4-] From the Official Board. ¶ 102.
  9. From Committees. ¶ 98, § 8.
  10. [-1-] What amounts have been estimated for, and apportioned to, this Charge this year for the support of the Ministry?
    1. For Pastor.
    2. For Assistant.
    3. For Presiding Elder.
    4. For Episcopal Fund.
    5. For Conference Claimants.
    6. For Rent.
    7. For Traveling and Moving Expenses.
  11. What is the Financial Plan adopted by the Stewards? ¶ 284.
  12. Have the directions of the Discipline for raising supplies for the support of the Ministry been carried out? ¶¶ 282-294.
  13. What amounts have been received this quarter for the support of the Ministry, and how have they been applied?



*Received :*

1. For Pastors and Presiding Elder.
2. For Episcopal Fund.
3. For Rent.
4. For Traveling and Moving Expenses.
5. [-4-] For Conference Claimants.

*Applied :*

1. To Pastor.
2. To Assistant.
3. To Presiding Elder.
4. To Episcopal Fund.
5. To Rent.
6. To Traveling and Moving Expenses.
7. [-4-] To Conference Claimants.

14. [1] What amounts have been apportioned to this Charge this year for benevolent causes?

1. For Missions.
2. For Board of Church Extension.
3. For Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.
4. For Education.
5. For Sunday School Union.
6. For Tract Society.
7. For Other Purposes.

15. [-4-] What amounts have been asked and received for benevolent causes this year?

1. For Missions: *a.* From Church and Congregation; *b.* From Sunday School.
2. For Board of Church Extension.
3. For Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society.
4. For Education: *a.* Public Educational Collection; *b.* Children's Fund.
5. For Sunday School Union.



¶ 99.      QUARTERLY CONFERENCES.

6. For Tract Society.
7. For American Bible Society.
8. For Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.
9. For Woman's Home Missionary Society.
10. For Other Purposes.
16. Are the Sunday Schools organized into Missionary Societies. ¶ 375.
17. Have the Rules respecting the Instruction of Children been observed? ¶¶ 347-348.
18. Who are licensed to preach, or recommended to the District Conference for License to preach? ¶ 197.
19. [-4-] Was the Character of each Local Preacher and Exhorter examined? ¶ 197.
20. [-4-] What Local Preachers and Exhorters have had their Licenses renewed, or have been recommended to the District Conference for renewal of License? ¶ 197.
21. [-4-] What Local Preachers are recommended for Orders? ¶ 197.
22. [-4-] What Local Preachers are recommended for the Recognition of Orders? ¶ 197. ¶ 154, § 2.
23. [-4-] What Local Preachers are recommended for Reception on Trial in the Annual Conference? ¶ 197.
24. [-1, 2, 3-] Is any change desired in the Board of Stewards? ¶ 281.
25. [-4-] Who shall be the Stewards for the ensuing Conference year? ¶¶ 276-278.
26. [-4-] Who shall be the Recording Steward? ¶ 276.
27. [-4-] Who shall be the District Steward? ¶ 276.
28. [-4-] Who are the Trustees of Church and Parsonage property? ¶¶ 299-302.
29. [-4-] What Committees are appointed? ¶ 98.
30. [-4-] Have the General Rules been read this year? ¶ 193, § 4.
31. [-4-] Has the Pastor made a Visiting List, or

## LEADERS AND STEWARDS' MEETING. ¶ 101.

Plan of his Charge, as required by the Discipline?  
¶ 193, § 28.

32. Are the Church Records properly kept? ¶ 100.

33. Is the Church and Parsonage property insured?  
¶ 190, § 9.

34. When and where shall the next Quarterly Conference be held?

35. Is there any other Business?

¶ 100. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Church Records to see that the Records of Membership, of the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting, of the Official Board, of the Sunday School Board, of the Board of Trustees, and of the Quarterly Conference are properly kept; and when any of these books are filled up, or are no longer in use, they shall be deposited with the Recording Steward for preservation.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE LEADERS AND STEWARDS' MEETING.

¶ 101. The Pastor shall, as often as practicable, hold a meeting of all the Leaders and Stewards of the Charge, to be denominated the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting, in order to inquire, 1. Are there any sick? 2. Are there any requiring temporal relief? 3. Are there any who walk disorderly and will not be reproofed? 4. Are there any who willfully neglect the means of grace? 5. Are any changes to be made in the classes? 6. Are there any Probationers to be recommended for admission into Full Membership? 7. Are there any to be recommended for License to exhort or preach? 8. What amount has been received for the support of the Pastor or Pastors? 9. Is there any miscellaneous business?

## ¶ 102. OFFICIAL BOARD.

### CHAPTER VIII.

#### THE OFFICIAL BOARD.

¶ 102. The Quarterly Conference of any Charge may organize and continue during its pleasure an Official Board, to be composed of all the members of the Quarterly Conference. In the case of circuits the Quarterly Conference may organize, and continue during its pleasure, Official Boards for the several appointments of the Charge, such Official Boards to be composed of the members of the Quarterly Conference attached to the respective appointments. The Official Board may hold its meetings at such times as it may determine, and shall be presided over by the Pastor, or, in his absence, by a chairman elected by the meeting. When so organized the Official Board may discharge such duties as the Quarterly Conference may from time to time direct, including those of the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting. The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings, and send the same to the Fourth Quarterly Conference for approval.

**PART III.**  
**THE MINISTRY.**



- I. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.
- II. MINISTERS AND THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
- III. DEACONS.
- IV. ELDERS.
- V. BISHOPS
- VI. MISSIONARY BISHOPS.
- VII. PRESIDING ELDERS.
- VIII. PASTORS.
- IX. SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS.

## CHAPTER I.

### QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

#### I. The Call to Preach.

¶ 103. In order that we may try those persons who profess to be moved by the Holy Ghost to preach, let the following questions be asked, namely:

§ 1. Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?

§ 2. Have they gifts, as well as grace, for the work? Have they, in some tolerable degree, a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Has God given them any degree of utterance? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?

§ 3. Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified, by their preaching?

As long as these marks concur in anyone, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved by the Holy Ghost.

#### II. Rules for a Preacher's Conduct.

¶ 104. *Rule 1.* Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time;

¶ 105. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

¶ 105. *Rule 2.* Be serious. Let your motto be, "Holiness to the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.

¶ 106. *Rule 3.* Converse sparingly, and conduct yourself prudently with women (1 Tim. v, 2).

¶ 107. *Rule 4.* Believe evil of no one without good evidence; unless you see it done take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction on everything. You know the judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

¶ 108. *Rule 5.* Speak evil of no one, because your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast till you come to the person concerned.

¶ 109. *Rule 6.* Tell everyone under your care what you think wrong in his conduct and temper, and that lovingly and plainly, as soon as may be; else it will fester in your heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

¶ 110. *Rule 7.* Avoid all affectation. A Preacher of the Gospel is the servant of all.

¶ 111. *Rule 8.* Be ashamed of nothing but sin.

¶ 112. *Rule 9.* Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

¶ 113. *Rule 10.* You have nothing to do but to save souls; therefore spend and be spent in this work; and go always not only to those that want you, but to those that want you most.

Observe! it is not your business only to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that Society, but to save as many as you can; to bring as many sinners as

you can to repentance, and with all your power to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And remember! a Methodist Preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline! Therefore you will need to exercise all the sense and grace you have.

¶ 114. *Rule 11.* Act in all things not according to your own will, but as a son in the Gospel. As such, it is your duty to employ your time in the manner in which we direct: in preaching, and visiting from house to house; in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if you labor with us in the Lord's vineyard, it is needful you should do that part of the work which we advise, at those times and places which we judge most for His glory.

¶ 115. Smaller advices which might be of use to us are perhaps these: 1. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation. 2. Begin at the time appointed. 3. Let your whole deportment be serious, weighty, and solemn. 4. Always suit your subject to your audience. 5. Choose the plainest text you can. 6. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. 7. Take care of anything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. 8. Do not usually pray *extempore* above eight or ten minutes (at most) without intermission. 9. Frequently read and enlarge upon a portion of Scripture; and let young Preachers often exhort without taking a text. 10. Always avail yourself of the great festivals by preaching on the occasion.

### III. Spiritual Qualifications.

¶ 116. The duty of a Preacher is: 1. To preach. 2. To meet the Societies and Classes. 3. To visit the sick.



## ¶ 117. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

¶ 117. A Preacher shall be qualified for his charge by walking closely with God, and having his work greatly at heart, and by understanding and loving discipline, ours in particular.

¶ 118. We do not sufficiently watch over each other. Should we not frequently ask each other, Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? At what hour do you rise? Do you punctually observe the morning and evening hours of retirement? Do you spend the day in the manner which the Conference advises? Do you converse seriously, usefully, and closely? To be more particular: Do you use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons?

¶ 119. The means of grace are either Instituted or Prudential.

¶ 120. The INSTITUTED are:

§ 1. *Prayer*: private, family, and public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving. Do you use each of these? Do you forecast daily, wherever you are, to secure time for private devotion? Do you practice it everywhere? Do you ask everywhere, Have you family prayer? Do you ask individuals, Do you use private prayer every morning and evening in particular?

§ 2. *Searching the Scriptures*: 1. Reading: constantly, some part of every day; regularly, all the Bible in order; carefully, with notes; seriously, with prayer before and after; fruitfully, immediately practicing what you learn there. 2. Meditating: at set times; by rule. 3. Hearing: at every opportunity; with prayer before, at, after. Have you a Bible always about you?

§ 3. *The Lord's Supper*: Do you use this at every opportunity? With solemn prayer before? With earnest and deliberate self-devotion?

§ 4. *Fasting*: Do you use as much abstinence and fasting every week as your health, strength, and labor will permit?

§ 5. *Christian conference*: Are you convinced how important and how difficult it is to order your conversation aright? Is it always in grace? Seasoned with salt? Meet to minister grace to the hearers? Do you not converse too long at a time? Is not an hour commonly enough? Would it not be well always to have a determined end in view? And to pray before and after it?

¶ 121. PRUDENTIAL means we may use either as Christians, as Methodists, or as Preachers.

§ 1. *As Christians*: What particular rules have you in order to grow in grace? What arts of holy living?

§ 2. *As Methodists*: Do you ever miss your Class?

§ 3. *As Preachers*: Have you thoroughly considered your duty? And do you make a conscience of executing every part of it? Do you meet every Society and their Leaders?

¶ 122. These means may be used without fruit. But there are some means which cannot, namely: watching, denying ourselves, taking up our cross, exercise of the presence of God.

§ 1. Do you steadily watch against the world? Yourself? Your besetting sin?

§ 2. Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense? imagination? honor? Are you temperate in all things? For instance, 1. Do you use only that kind and that degree of food which is best both for body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Are you not heavy or drowsy after dinner? 2. Do you use only that kind and that degree of drink which is best both for your body and soul? Do you choose and use water for your

## ¶ 122, § 3. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

common drink, and only take wine medicinally or sacramentally?

§ 3. Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross, however grievous to nature, as a gift of God, and labor to profit thereby?

§ 4. Do you endeavor to set God always before you? To see his eye continually fixed upon you?

¶ 123. Never can you use these means but a blessing will ensue. And the more you use them the more you will grow in grace.

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## IV. The Profitable Use of Time.

¶ 124. As a general method of employing our time we advise you, 1. As often as possible to rise at four. 2. From four to five in the morning and from five to six in the evening to meditate, pray, and read the Scriptures with notes, and the closely practical parts of what Mr. Wesley has published. 3. From six in the morning till twelve, wherever it is practicable, let the time be spent in appropriate reading, study, and private devotion.

¶ 125. Other reasons may concur, but the chief reason that the people under our care are not better is because we are not more knowing and more holy.

¶ 126. And we are not more knowing because we are idle. We forget our first rule: "Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Neither spend any more time at any place than is strictly necessary." We fear there is altogether a fault in this matter, and that few of us are clear. Which of us spend as many hours a day in God's work as we did formerly in man's work? We talk—talk—or read what comes next to hand. We must, absolutely must, cure this evil, or betray the cause of God. But how? 1. Read the

most useful books, and that regularly and constantly. 2. Steadily spend all the morning in this employment, or at least five hours in the four and twenty. "But I have no taste for reading." Contract a taste for it by use, or return to your former employment. "But I have no books." Be diligent to spread the books, and you will have the use of them.

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## V. The Necessity of Union among Ourselves.

¶ 127. Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we divide, we shall destroy ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

¶ 128. In order to a closer union with each other, 1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it. 2. Pray earnestly for, and speak freely to, each other. 3. When we meet, let us never part without prayer. 4. Take great care not to despise each other's gifts. 5. Never speak lightly of each other. 6. Let us defend each other's character in everything so far as is consistent with truth. 7. Labor in honor each to prefer the other before himself. We recommend a serious perusal of *The Causes, Evils, and Cures of Heart and Church Divisions*.

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## VI. Deportment at the Conference.

¶ 129. It is desired that all things be considered on these occasions as in the immediate presence of God; that every person speak freely whatever is in his heart.

¶ 130. In order, therefore, that we may best improve our time at the Conferences, 1. While we are conversing



## ¶ 131. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

let us have an especial care to set God always before us. 2. In the intermediate hours let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises. 3. Therein let us give ourselves to prayer for one another, and for a blessing on our labor.

## VII. Where and How to Preach.

¶ 131. It is by no means advisable for us to preach in as many places as we can without forming any Societies. We have made the trial in various places, and that for a considerable time. But all that seed has fallen by the wayside. There is scarcely any fruit remaining.

¶ 132. We should endeavor to preach most, 1. Where there is the greatest number of quiet and willing hearers; 2. Where there is most fruit.

¶ 133. We ought diligently to observe in what places God is pleased at any time to pour out his Spirit more abundantly, and at that time to send more laborers than usual into that part of the harvest.

¶ 134. The best general method of preaching is, 1. To convince; 2. To offer Christ; 3. To invite; 4. To build up. And to do this in some measure in every sermon.

¶ 135. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach him in all his offices; and to declare his law, as well as his Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly and closely insist upon inward and outward holiness in all its branches.

## VIII. Pastoral Fidelity.

¶ 136. We can further assist those under our care by instructing them at their own houses. What unspeakable

ble need is there of this ! The world says, "The Methodists are no better than other people." This is not true in the general; but,

§ 1. Personal religion, both toward God and man, is too superficial among us. We can only touch on a few particulars. How little faith is there among us ! How little communion with God ! How little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature ! How much love of the world ! Desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money ! How little brotherly love ! What continual judging one another ! What gossiping, evil-speaking, tale-bearing ! What want of moral honesty ! To instance only one particular : Who does as he would be done by in buying and selling ?

§ 2. Family religion is wanting in many branches. And what avails public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels ? We must, yea, every Traveling Preacher must, instruct the people from house to house. Till this be done, and that in good earnest, Methodists will be no better.

§ 3. Our religion is not sufficiently deep, universal, uniform ; but superficial, partial, uneven. It will be so till we spend half as much time in this visiting as we now do in talking uselessly. Can we find a better method of doing this than Mr. Baxter's ? If not, let us adopt it without delay. His whole tract, entitled *Gildas Salvianus ; or, The Reformed Pastor*, is well worth a careful perusal. Speaking of this visiting from house to house he says (p. 273), " We shall find many hindrances, both in ourselves and the people." 1. In ourselves there is much dullness and laziness, so that there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work. 2. We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so that we let people perish rather than lose their love ; we let them go quietly to

¶ 137. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

hell lest we should offend them. 3. Some of us also have a foolish bashfulness. We know not how to begin, and blush to contradict the devil. 4. But the greatest hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak, because the spring of it is weak. 5. Lastly, we are unskillful in the work. How few know how to deal with men, so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers; to choose the fittest subjects and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness, terror, love, and meekness!

¶ 137. But undoubtedly this private application is implied in those solemn words of the Apostle: "I charge thee before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering."

¶ 138. O brethren, if we could but set this work on foot in all our Societies, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common lukewarmness were banished, and every shop, and every house, busied in speaking of the words and works of God, surely God would dwell in our habitations, and make us his delight!

¶ 139. And this is absolutely necessary to the welfare of our people, some of whom neither repent nor believe to this day. Look around, and see how many of them are still in apparent danger of damnation. And how can you walk and talk, and be merry with such people, when you know their case? When you look them in the face, you should break forth into tears, as the prophet did when he looked upon Hazael, and then set upon them with the most vehement exhortations. O, for God's sake, and the sake of poor souls, bestir yourselves, and spare no pains that may conduce to their sal-

vation! What cause have we to mourn before the Lord that we have so long neglected this good work! If we had but engaged in it sooner, how many more might have been brought to Christ! And how much holier and happier might our Societies have been before now! And why might we not have done it sooner? There were many hindrances; and so there always will be. But the greatest hindrance is in ourselves, in our littleness of faith and love.

¶ 140. But it is objected:

§ 1. "This will take up so much time that we shall not have leisure to follow our studies." We answer, 1. Gaining knowledge is a good thing, but saving souls is a better. 2. By this very thing you will gain the most excellent knowledge, that of God and eternity. 3. You will have time for gaining other knowledge, too, only sleep no more than you need, "and never be idle, nor triflingly employed." But, 4. If you can do but one, let your studies alone. We ought to throw by all the libraries in the world, rather than be guilty of the loss of one soul.

§ 2. "The people will not submit to it." If some will not, others will, and the success with them will repay all your labor. O let us herein follow the example of St. Paul! 1. For our general business, *Serving the Lord with all humility of mind*: 2. Our special work, *Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock*: 3. Our doctrine, *Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*: 4. The place, *I have taught you publicly, and from house to house*: 5. The object and manner of teaching, *I ceased not to warn everyone night and day, with tears*: 6. His innocence and self-denial herein, *I have coveted no man's silver or gold*: 7. His patience, *Neither count I my life dear unto myself*. And among all other motives let these be ever before our eyes: (1) *The*



¶ 141. QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK.

*Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood:*  
(2) *Grievous wolves shall enter in; yea, of yourselves shall men arise, speaking perverse things.*

¶ 141. Write this upon your hearts, and it will do you more good than twenty years' study. Then you will have no time to spare: you will have work enough. Then likewise no Preacher will stay with us who is as salt that has lost its savor. For to such this employment would be mere drudgery. And in order to it, you will have need of all the knowledge you can procure, and grace you can attain.

¶ 142. The sum is, Go into every house in course, and teach every one therein, young and old, to be Christians inwardly and outwardly: make every particular plain to their understandings: fix it in their minds: write it on their hearts. In order to this, there must be precept upon precept, line upon line. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this! We must needs do this, were it only to avoid idleness. Do we not loiter away many hours in every week? Each try himself; no idleness is consistent with a growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time you cannot retain the grace you receive in justification.

¶ 143. Why are we not more holy? why do we not live in eternity? walk with God all the day long? why are we not all devoted to God, breathing the whole spirit of missionaries? Chiefly because we are enthusiasts; looking for the end without using the means. To touch only upon two or three instances: Who of us rise at four, or even at five, when we do not preach? Do we know the obligation and benefit of fasting or abstinence? How often do we practice it? The neglect of this alone is sufficient to account for our feebleness and faintness of spirit. We are continually grieving the Holy Spirit

of God by the habitual neglect of a plain duty. Let us amend from this hour.

¶ 144. In order to guard against Sabbath-breaking, evil-speaking, unprofitable conversation, lightness, expensiveness or gayety of apparel, and contracting debts without due care to discharge them, 1. Let us preach expressly on each of these heads. 2. Read in every Society the Sermon on Evil-speaking. 3. Let the Leaders closely examine and exhort every person to put away the accursed thing. 4. Let the Preachers warn every Society that none who is guilty herein can remain with us. 5. Extirpate out of our Church buying or selling goods which have not paid the duty laid upon them by government. Let none remain with us who will not totally abstain from this evil in every kind and degree. Extirpate bribery—receiving anything, directly or indirectly—for voting at any election. Show no respect to persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing. And strongly advise our people to discountenance all treats given by candidates before or at elections, and not to be partakers, in any respect, of such iniquitous practices.

## CHAPTER II.

### MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

#### I. Reception on Trial.

¶ 145. A Preacher is to be received on Trial by an Annual Conference.

¶ 146. But he must (1) present a recommendation from the District Conference (or, where no District Con-

## ¶ 147. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

ference exists, from the Quarterly Conference) of which he is a member, duly signed by the President and Secretary thereof; (2) give to the Annual Conference satisfactory evidence of his knowledge of the studies prescribed for candidates for Reception on Trial; and (3) have previously deposited with the Secretary of the Conference, or with the Committee on Conference Relations, written answers to the following questions, namely:

(1) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in the work of the Ministry?

(2) Will you wholly abstain from the use of tobacco?

NOTE (1) Like answers shall also be required of Ministers proposing to come to us from other Churches.

(2) All Preachers now (1896) on Trial shall also be called upon to give written answers to these questions at the next session of their respective Conferences.

¶ 147. While he is on Trial the Annual Conference alone has jurisdiction over the question of his authority to preach, and his continuance on Trial shall be equivalent to the renewal of his License to preach. If he shall be discontinued he shall be a member of the Quarterly Conference of the Charge where he resides at the time; and, if he is not a Deacon or Elder, his License shall expire unless renewed within one year. ¶ 198, § 3.

¶ 148. Observe! Taking on Trial is entirely different from admitting a Preacher into Full Membership. One on Trial may be either admitted or rejected without doing him any wrong; otherwise it would be no trial at all.

¶ 149. At each Annual Conference those who are received on Trial or are admitted into Full Membership shall be asked whether they are willing to devote themselves to the missionary work, and a list of the names of all those who are willing to do so shall be taken and reported to the Corresponding Secretaries of the Mission-

## MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES. ¶ 151.

ary Society; and all such shall be considered as ready and willing to be employed as Missionaries whenever called for by any of the Bishops.

### II. Admission Into Full Membership.

¶ 150. A Preacher on Trial who has been employed in the regular itinerant work on Circuits or Stations, or as an instructor in an institution of learning, for two successive years from the time he was received on Trial, may be admitted into Full Membership in the Annual Conference after he has given satisfactory evidence of his knowledge of the first two years of the Conference Course of Study, and after the examination before the Conference prescribed in ¶ 151.

¶ 151. In admitting a Preacher at the Conference into Full Membership, after solemn fasting and prayer, he shall be asked, before the Conference, the following questions, with any others which may be thought necessary, namely:

1. Have you faith in Christ?
2. Are you going on to perfection?
3. Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
4. Are you earnestly striving after it?
5. Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?
6. Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
7. Will you keep them?
8. Have you studied the Doctrines of the Methodist Episcopal Church?
9. After full examination do you believe that our Doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
10. Will you preach and maintain them?



## ¶ 152. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

11. Have you studied our form of Church Discipline and Polity?

12. Do you approve our Church Government and Polity?

13. Will you support and maintain them?

14. Have you considered the Rules for a Preacher, especially those relating to Diligence, to Punctuality, and to Doing the Work to which you are assigned?

15. Will you keep them for conscience' sake?

16. Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?

17. Will you visit from house to house?

18. Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?

19. Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?

NOTE.—The candidate for Admission into Full Membership must again deposit with the Secretary of the Conference, or with the Committees on Conference Relations, written answers to the questions set forth in ¶ 146.

¶ 152. A Missionary employed in a Mission may be admitted into Full Membership, if recommended by the Superintendent of the Mission where he labors, without being present at his Annual Conference for examination; but he shall in all cases answer the questions in ¶ 151, in the presence of the Annual Meeting of the Mission when practicable; otherwise in the presence of the Superintendent.

¶ 153. A Minister who has been located at his own request may be readmitted by an Annual Conference, at its discretion, upon his Certificate of Location.

## III. Ministers from Other Churches.

¶ 154. Ministers duly accredited as in good standing in other Evangelical Churches until their withdrawal or

## MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES. ¶ 154, § 5.

dismissal therefrom, and having been blameless in life and doctrine thereafter, may be received into our ministry in the following manner:

§ 1. The Quarterly Conference may receive them as Local Preachers not entitled to administer the Sacraments.

§ 2. Upon the recommendation of the District Conference (or of the Quarterly Conference where no District Conference exists) the Annual Conference may at any time thereafter recognize the Orders of those thus received; may, upon like recommendation, receive them into the Conference, either on Trial or in Full Membership; and may, at its discretion, require them to pursue, in whole or in part, the Conference Course of Study. In case a Minister comes from a Church having but a single Order in its ministry, the Conference may receive him either as a Deacon or as an Elder.

§ 3. But Ministers of the above description may apply directly to the Annual Conference, which may receive their Credentials from another Church, and, finding them of unquestionable validity and sufficiency, may exercise in behalf of said Ministers all the powers conferred in the preceding section.

§ 4. In all these cases the candidates for Admission into Full Membership must satisfactorily answer the questions set forth in ¶ 151; and candidates who come to us from other than Methodist Churches must, before the Recognition of their Orders, take upon them our Ordination Vows, and give satisfactory evidence of their agreement with us in Doctrine and Discipline.

§ 5. The Annual Conference may also admit to equal grade Preachers who are on Trial in the ministry of another Methodist Church, using, however, special care that before they are admitted to Full Membership their examination be entirely satisfactory.

## ¶ 155. MINISTERS AND ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

¶ 155. Whenever the Orders of a Minister are recognized according to the foregoing provisions he shall be furnished with a Certificate, signed by the Bishop, in the following words, namely:

*"This is to Certify* that the..... Annual Conference, having examined the Credentials of the Rev..... as ..... (*an Elder or a Deacon*) of the ..... Church, and having received other testimonials of his Grace, Gifts, and Usefulness, and being satisfied therewith, has this day accepted and recognized him in due form as ..... (*an Elder or a Deacon*) in the Methodist Episcopal Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions pertaining to that office, so long as his life and doctrine become the Gospel of Christ.

"Given under my hand and seal at ....., this ..... day of ....., in the year of our Lord .....

"....."

¶ 156. When the Orders of a Minister of another Church shall have been duly recognized, his Credentials from said Church shall be returned to him with this inscription written plainly across the face of them:

"Accredited by the ..... Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, this ..... of ....., 18.., as the basis of new Credentials.

"....., President:

"....., Secretary."

## IV. Ministers in Official Positions.

¶ 157. Traveling Preachers who are elected to official positions by the General Conference shall be Members of such Annual Conference as they may, with the approbation of the Bishops, select.

**V. Termination of Conference Membership.**

*1. By Location.*

¶ 158. An Annual Conference may grant to any Member who is in good standing therein a Location, certified by the President of the Conference. Such Minister shall thereupon hold his membership as a Local Elder (or Deacon) in the Quarterly Conference where he resides. ¶ 198, § 3.

¶ 159. Whenever a Member of an Annual Conference applies for a Location, it shall be asked, Is he indebted to the Book Concern? and if it be ascertained that he is, the Conference shall require him to secure said debt, if they judge it necessary or proper, before they grant him a Location.

*2. By Surrender of the Ministerial Office.*

¶ 160. Any Member of an Annual Conference in good standing, who may desire to surrender his Ministerial Office and withdraw from the Conference, may be allowed to do so by the Conference at its session; in which case his Credentials shall be filed with the papers of the Annual Conference of which he was a Member, and his membership in the Church may be recorded in any Society within whose bounds he may wish to reside.

*3. By Withdrawal.*

¶ 161, § 1. When a Minister in good standing withdraws to join the Ministry of another Church, his Credentials should be surrendered to the Conference, and, if he shall desire it, may be returned to him with the



¶ 161, § 2. DEACONS.

following inscription written plainly across the face of them, namely:

"A ..... B ..... has this day been honorably dismissed by the ..... Annual Conference from the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

"Dated .....

"....., President.

"....., Secretary."

§ 2. When in the interval of the Annual Conference a Member thereof shall deposit with a Bishop or with his Presiding Elder a letter of withdrawal from our Ministry, or his Credentials, or both, the same shall be presented to the Annual Conference, at its next session for its action thereon.

4. *By Refusal to do the Work Assigned.*

¶ 162. No Member of an Annual Conference who declines, or ceases, to do the work to which he was duly appointed, except in case of sickness, serious disability, or other unavoidable circumstance, shall on any account exercise the peculiar functions of his Office, whether Deacon or Elder, or even be allowed to preach among us; *nevertheless*, the final determination in every such case is with the Annual Conference. ¶ 227.

## CHAPTER III.

### DEACONS.

¶ 163. A Deacon is constituted by the election of the Annual Conference and the laying on of the hands of a Bishop.

¶ 164. A Deacon has authority to preach; to con-

duct Divine Worship; to solemnize Matrimony; to administer Baptism; and to assist the Elder in administering the Lord's Supper.

¶ 165. Preachers of the following classes are eligible to the Office of Deacon:

§ 1. Those who, having been Local Preachers for four consecutive years, shall present a recommendation for Deacons' Orders from the District Conference (or from the Quarterly Conference where no District Conference exists), duly attested by the President and Secretary thereof; and shall have completed, satisfactorily to the Annual Conference, the studies prescribed for Local Preachers who are candidates for Deacons' Orders.

NOTE.—Preachers on Trial in an Annual Conference are for purposes of ordination, as for amenability, considered as Local Preachers.

§ 2. Those who, having been Local Preachers for two full years, and also at and during the same time regular students in one of our theological seminaries, shall thereafter have been received on Trial, but previously to such Reception on Trial shall have completed, satisfactorily to the Annual Conference, the first two years of the Conference Course of Study.

§ 3. Those who have been on Trial in an Annual Conference for two years, and shall have completed satisfactorily to the Annual Conference the first two years of the Conference Course of Study.

§ 4. Those Preachers on Trial who shall be appointed by a Bishop to a foreign mission, or to a remote field in any Conference, or to a Church in a foreign country outside of a Mission or Conference, or to a Chaplaincy in the Army or Navy, in a Prison, or in a Reformatory, Sanitary or Charitable Institution; *provided*, that the Bishop and a majority of the Presiding Elders recommend such election.

## CHAPTER IV.

## ELDERS.

¶ 166. An Elder is constituted by the election of the Annual Conference, and by the laying on of the hands of a Bishop and of some of the Elders who are present.

¶ 167. An Elder has authority to preach; to conduct Divine Worship; to solemnize Matrimony; and to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

¶ 168. Preachers of the following classes are eligible to the Office of Elder:

§ 1. Those who, having been for four consecutive years Local Deacons, shall present a recommendation for Elders' Orders from the District Conference (or from the Quarterly Conference where no District Conference exists), duly attested by the President and Secretary thereof; and shall have completed satisfactorily to the Annual Conference the Studies prescribed for Local Deacons who are candidates for Elders' Orders.

NOTE 1. Preachers on Trial in an Annual Conference are for purposes of ordination, as for amenability, considered as Local Preachers.

NOTE 2. But the Election of such Preachers to Elders' Orders properly precedes their Admission to Full Membership.

§ 2. Those who have been in Full Membership in the Annual Conference, and also Deacons, for two successive years, and shall have completed, satisfactorily to the Conference, the Conference Course of Study.

§ 3. Those who, having been received on Trial, and elected to the office of Deacon under the provisions of

¶ 165, § 2, shall have completed, satisfactorily to the Conference, the Conference Course of Study, and been admitted into Full Membership.

§ 4. Those who, having been received on trial in an Annual Conference, have been appointed to a foreign mission, or to the Pastorate of a Church in a foreign country outside of a Mission or Conference.

¶ 169. The Annual Conferences in India are authorized, with the concurrence of the Bishop presiding, to elect to the Office of Deacon or Elder Local Preachers who have been engaged in the regular work for two years, or four years, respectively.

¶ 170. When a Preacher shall have passed his examination, and been admitted into Full Membership, and been elected to the Office of a Deacon, but fails of his Ordination through the absence of the Bishop, his eligibility to the Office of Elder shall count from the time of his election to the Office of Deacon.

## CHAPTER V.

### BISHOPS.

¶ 171. A Bishop is to be constituted by the election of the General Conference and the laying on of the hands of three Bishops, or at least of one Bishop and two Elders. But the General Conference may authorize the election of a Missionary Bishop in the interim of the General Conference.

¶ 172. If by death, or otherwise, there be no Bishop remaining in our Church, the General Conference shall elect a Bishop, and the Elders, or any three of them, who shall be appointed by the General Conference for



that purpose, shall consecrate him according to the Ritual.

¶ 173. The duties of a Bishop are:

§ 1. To preside in the Annual Conferences.  
 § 2. To form the Districts according to his judgment.

§ 3. To fix the appointments of the Preachers under the following provisions and limitations:

1. He shall not allow any Preacher to remain in the same Pastoral Charge more than five consecutive years, nor more than five years in any consecutive ten. Nevertheless, if in any case the term of five years shall expire in the interval between the sessions of the Annual Conference, he may continue him until the next session, provided the time shall not be more than six months.

2. He shall not allow a Presiding Elder to preside in the same District more than six consecutive years, nor more than six years in any consecutive twelve. But Presiding Elders in either Missions or Mission Conferences in heathen lands may be appointed to the same District for more than six consecutive years.

3. He may make the following appointments annually, without limitation of time:

1. The Corresponding Secretaries of our Connec-  
 tional Benevolent Societies and Boards, and  
 the Assistant Corresponding Secretaries of the  
 Board of Church Extension.

2. The Publishing Agents at New York and Cin-  
 cinnati.

3. The Editors and Assistant Editors at New York,  
 Syracuse, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago, St.  
 Louis, San Francisco, and New Orleans, and  
 the Editor of *Zion's Herald*.

4. Missionaries to the Indians, to neglected portions of our cities (including the Five Points Mission in New York), to foreign lands, and to foreign populations in the United States where Preachers are obtained with difficulty, including, however, no Germans but those on the Pacific coast.

5. Our Preachers in Germany and Switzerland.

6. Chaplains to Prisons, to Reformatory, Sanitary, and Charitable Institutions, and in the Army and Navy.

7. Preachers appointed to labor for the special benefit of Seamen.

8. Ministers in the service of the American Bible Society, or of any State Bible Society auxiliary thereto.

9. The Minister stationed at the American Chapel in Paris.

10. The Presidents, Principals, and Teachers of institutions of learning which are under our care; and also those who, *upon the request of an Annual Conference*, are appointed to institutions of learning not under our care.

4. He may, *if requested by an Annual Conference*, appoint—

1. An Agent to travel throughout such Conference for the purpose of distributing Tracts.

2. An Agent to promote the cause of Temperance.

3. An Agent or Agents for the benefit of our institutions of learning.

4. An Agent for the German Publishing Fund.

5. Agents for other benevolent institutions.

6. Editors of unofficial Papers or Magazines published in the interest of the Methodist Episcopal Church; *provided*, the Annual Conferences of which they are Members shall request such appointment; and *provided*, further, that in no such case shall the Church incur any financial responsibility.

7. One or more Members of an Annual Conference to do evangelistic work, on Charges within that Conference if invited by their Pastors, and in cooperation with them; or in neglected territory within any District, when requested by, and in cooperation with, the Presiding Elder of such District; *provided*, the Conference shall determine by vote how many of its Members may be thus appointed; and, *provided* further, the said Annual Conference shall by vote of two thirds of its Members present and voting request such appointment. ¶ 193, § 29.

§ 4. To change, in the interval between the sessions of the Annual Conference, the appointments of the Preachers as necessity may require and as the Discipline directs.

§ 5. To travel through the Connection at large.

§ 6. To oversee the spiritual and temporal business of our Church.

§ 7. To preside, when present, in the District Conference.

§ 8. To Consecrate Bishops, and Ordain Elders and Deacons.

§ 9. To decide all Questions of Law involved in proceedings pending in an Annual Conference, subject to appeal to the General Conference; but in all cases the application of law shall be with the Conference.

¶ 174. The Bishops shall prescribe the studies upon which those applying for License to preach, for Orders as Local Preachers, and for Reception on Trial shall respectively be examined; and also (1) a Course of Study for Local Preachers, extending through four years, and (2) a Conference Course of Study, extending through four years, to be pursued by those who have been received on Trial in an Annual Conference.

¶ 175. A Bishop may leave without appointment a Preacher on Trial or a Member of an Annual Conference who desires to attend any of our literary or theological Seminaries, whenever he shall be requested so to do by the Annual Conference and it shall seem to him expedient; *provided*, however, that the time thus spent in school shall not count on that required for Trial in the Annual Conference.

¶ 176. A Bishop may, when he judges it necessary, unite two or more Pastoral Charges for Quarterly Conference purposes, without affecting their separate financial interests or pastoral relations.

¶ 177. If a Bishop cease from traveling at large among the people without the consent of the General Conference, he shall not thereafter exercise, in any degree, the Episcopal Office in our Church.

¶ 178. In case there be no Bishop to travel at large through the Districts and exercise the Episcopal Office, on account of death or otherwise, the Districts shall be regulated in every respect by the Annual Conferences and the Presiding Elders in the interval of the sessions of the General Conference, ordination excepted.



## CHAPTER VI.

### MISSIONARY BISHOPS.

¶ 179. A Missionary Bishop is a Bishop elected for a specified Foreign Mission field, with full Episcopal powers, but with Episcopal jurisdiction limited to the Foreign Mission field for which he was elected.

¶ 180. A Missionary Bishop is not, in the meaning of the Discipline, a General Superintendent.

¶ 181. A Missionary Bishop is not subordinate to the General Superintendents, but is coordinate with them in authority in the field to which he is appointed. In the practical application of this coordinate authority, when the General Superintendents are making their assignments to the Conferences, any Missionary Bishop who may be in the United States shall sit with them when his field is under consideration; and arrangements shall be made so that once in every quadrennium, and not oftener unless a serious emergency arise, every Mission over which a Missionary Bishop has jurisdiction shall be administered conjointly by the General Superintendents and the Missionary Bishop. In case of a difference of judgment the existing status shall continue, unless overruled by the General Superintendents, who shall have power to decide finally.

¶ 182. A Missionary Bishop is amenable for his conduct to the General Conference, as is a General Superintendent.

¶ 183. The election of a Missionary Bishop carries with it his assignment to a specified Foreign Mission

field, and such Bishop cannot be made a General Superintendent except by a distinct election to that office.

¶ 184. A Missionary Bishop shall receive his support from the Missionary Society.

¶ 185. A Missionary Bishop shall be *ex officio* a member of the General Missionary Committee, and shall, in his field, cooperate with the Missionary Society of the Church in the same way in which a General Superintendent cooperates in the Foreign Mission field over which he has Episcopal charge.

¶ 186. When a Missionary Bishop, by death or other cause, ceases to perform Episcopal duty for the foreign field to which he was assigned by the General Conference, the General Superintendents shall at once take supervision of said field.

¶ 187. The transfer of a Preacher from a field within the jurisdiction of a Missionary Bishop to a Conference under the Episcopal supervision of a General Superintendent, or from a Conference under the Episcopal supervision of a General Superintendent to a field within the jurisdiction of a Missionary Bishop, shall require mutual agreement between the two Bishops; and a similar agreement shall be required between the two Bishops having charge when the proposed transfer is between two Foreign fields over which there are Missionary Bishops.

¶ 188. In case of a complaint against, or the trial of, a Missionary Bishop, the preliminary steps shall be as in the case of a General Superintendent, but the Missionary Bishop may be tried before a Judicial Conference in the United States of America.

## CHAPTER VII.

## PRESIDING ELDERS.

¶ 189. Presiding Elders are to be chosen and appointed by the Bishops.

¶ 190. The duties of a Presiding Elder are:

§ 1. To travel through his District.

§ 2. In the absence of a Bishop to take charge of all the Traveling Ministers, Local Preachers, and Exhorters in his District, as the Discipline directs.

§ 3. To change the appointments of Preachers in his District, if necessary, during the interval between the sessions of the Conference, and in the absence of a Bishop; *provided*, that a Presiding Elder shall not change a Preacher in his district from a Charge to which he has been appointed by a Bishop and appoint him to another to which he could not be legally appointed by a Bishop. The law of limitation applies also to Supernumerary, Superannuated, and Local Preachers who are employed in the Pastoral work. ¶ 173, § 3.

§ 4. To preside in the District Conference in the absence of a Bishop.

§ 5. To be present, as far as practicable, at all the Quarterly Meetings, especially at the first and fourth, and at each to call together the Quarterly Conference to transact the business assigned to it by the Discipline.

§ 6. To issue Licenses and to renew them, in accordance with the action of the District or Quarterly Conferences.

§ 7. To oversee the spiritual and temporal business of the Church in his District.

§ 8. To see that all Charters, Deeds, and other Conveyances of Church property in his District conform

strictly to the laws, usages, and forms of the State or Territory within which such property is situated, and also to the Discipline.\*

§ 9. To see that all Church property is well insured.

§ 10. To promote by all proper means the interests of Missions, Church Extension, Education, Sunday Schools, and Epworth Leagues; to observe the rules of the Church on these and other benevolent causes, and to secure conformity thereto by both Pastors and Quarterly Conferences.

§ 11. To report to the Annual Conference the condition and statistics of the literary and theological institutions located in his District, and under the care of our Church: and to ask at the last Quarterly Conference of each Charge, the questions set forth in ¶ 338.

§ 12. To carefully inquire at each Quarterly Conference whether the rules respecting the instruction of children have been faithfully observed; and to report to the Annual Conference the names of all Pastors within his District who have not observed these rules. ¶¶ 46, 347, 348.

§ 13. To take care that every part of our Discipline be enforced in his District.

§ 14. To decide all Questions of Law involved in proceedings pending in a District or Quarterly Conference, subject to an appeal to the President of the next Annual Conference; but in all cases the application of law shall be with the Conference.

§ 15. To attend the Bishop when present in his District, and to give him by letter, when absent, all necessary information of the state of his District.

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\*For specific information on the laws of the States and Territories concerning Church Incorporations, Trustees, Titles, etc., consult *The Religion of the Republic*, by Rev. A. J. Kynett, D.D., Secretary of the Board of Church Extension.



§ 16. To furnish the Member of the General Missionary Committee for his General Conference District, prior to the annual meeting of that Committee, a written statement of the condition of the Missions under his care, and of their pecuniary needs.

§ 17. To direct the attention of candidates for the Ministry to the advantages of a thorough training in the literary and theological schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and also to direct those who are admitted on Trial to the Course of Study prescribed by the Bishops.

§ 18. To explain to Preachers on Trial, as well as to those who are to be proposed for Trial, that the Annual Conference may refuse to admit them to Full Membership without doing them any wrong.

¶ 191. If any Pastor absent himself from his Charge the Presiding Elder shall, as far as possible, fill his place with another Preacher, who shall be paid for his labors, out of the allowance of the absent Pastor, and in proportion thereto.

¶ 192. A Presiding Elder shall not employ a Preacher who has been rejected by the previous Annual Conference, unless the Conference give him authority.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### PASTORS. (Preachers in Charge.)

¶ 193. The duties of the Pastor of a Station or Circuit are:

§ 1. To have the oversight of the other Preachers in his Pastoral Charge.

§ 2. To appoint all the Leaders; to change them

when he deems it necessary; and to examine each of them, with all possible exactness, at least once a quarter, concerning his method of leading a Class.

§ 3. To receive persons on Probation, and into Full Membership after Probation; to receive and dismiss Members by Certificate; and to administer the Discipline within his Charge.

§ 4. To read and explain the General Rules at least once a year in every Congregation.

§ 5. To enforce vigorously but calmly the rules of the Church.

§ 6. To appoint Prayer Meetings wherever advisable in his Charge.

§ 7. To arrange the appointments, wherever practicable, so as to give the Local Preachers regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

§ 8. To license such persons as he may deem proper to officiate as Exhorters in the Church; according to the provisions of the Discipline: ¶ 203.

§ 9. To hold Watch-night Meetings yearly, and Love Feasts quarterly; suffering no Love Feast to last above an hour and a half; to hold Quarterly Meetings in the absence of the Presiding Elder, and of the Traveling Elder appointed by him as his substitute.

§ 10. To take care that every Society be supplied with our Church literature.

§ 11. To form Classes of the larger children, youth, and adults for instruction in the word of God; and to attend to all the duties prescribed for the training of children. ¶¶ 46, 347, 348.

§ 12. To catechise the children publicly in the Sunday School; and at special meetings appointed for that purpose, and also privately; to report to each Quarterly Conference the extent to which he has done this work.

§ 13. To organize, if possible, and to maintain, if practicable, Chapters of the Epworth League.

§ 14. To examine the accounts of the Stewards.

§ 15. To see that the Stewards provide whenever practicable unfermented wine for use in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

§ 16. To appoint a person to receive the quarterly collection in the Classes.

§ 17. To see that public collections be made quarterly, if need be.

§ 18. To call the Committee on Temperance together at least once in three months for the purpose of considering the best means to be employed for promoting the cause of Temperance in the community.

§ 19. To recommend everywhere decency and cleanliness.

§ 20. To attend to all the duties enjoined upon Pastors in reference to Education, Sunday Schools and the Sunday School Union, Missions, Church Extension, the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society, and the distribution of Tracts, forming societies and taking collections to aid these objects in such manner as the Annual Conference shall from time to time direct.

§ 21. To take a collection or subscription, if the Annual Conference shall not give other directions on the subject, the proceeds of which shall be at the disposal of the Pastor for the distribution of Tracts.

§ 22. To take an annual collection in behalf of the American Bible Society.

§ 23. To take a collection previous to the session of each General Conference to aid in defraying the expenses thereof; and the sums so collected shall be brought up by the Delegation to the General Conference, and applied to the object above specified in proportion to the expenses of the several Delegates.

§ 24. To register carefully Marriages and Baptisms.

§ 25. To give an account of his Charge every quarter to his Presiding Elder.

§ 26. To make a written report at each Quarterly Conference in the order, and covering all the items, set forth in the following form:

*The Preacher in Charge of ..... presents the following*

**QUARTERLY REPORT**

*of the Charge to the ..... Quarterly Conference held at ..... , 18...*

**I. Sunday Schools and Religious Instruction.**

1. Number of Sunday Schools.....
2. State of the Schools.....
3. Average Attendance.....
4. Number of Sermons preached by the Pastor to the children.....
5. Number of times the Pastor has catechised the Children.....
6. Number of Classes of Children formed for religious instruction.....

**II. Changes in Membership.**

[NOTE.—Enter under each item the names of persons concerned.]

1. Admitted from Probation.....
2. Enrolled by Certificate.....
3. Granted Certificates.....
4. Deceased.....
5. Withdrawn.....
6. Excluded.....

**III. Pastoral Labor.**

1. Number of Pastoral Visits.....
2. Other Items.....

**IV. Benevolent Collections this Quarter.**

1. Missions.....
2. Church Extension.....
3. Education.....



4. Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education.....
5. Sunday Schools and Sunday School Union.....
6. Tracts.....
7. American Bible Society.....
8. Other Objects.....

V. *Subscribers for our Periodicals.*

[NOTE.—To be reported only at Fourth Quarterly Conference.]

1. .... Christian Advocate.....
2. Methodist Review.....
3. Sunday School Journal.....
4. Sunday School Advocate.....
5. The Classmate.....
6. Epworth Herald.....
7. Other Periodicals.....

....., *Preacher in Charge.*

§ 27. To make an exact report to the Annual Conference of all the items embraced in the Statistics of the Conference, and to deliver to the Conference Treasurer all moneys raised for our benevolent causes, or satisfactory vouchers for the same. ¶ 82-85.

§ 28. To make at the close of each Conference year a Visiting List of the Members in Towns and Cities, by streets and numbers, and to leave it to his successor, together with a particular account of his Charge and a list of subscribers for our Periodicals.

§ 29. No Pastor shall engage an evangelist other than those appointed by the Bishop of his Conference, without first obtaining the written consent of his Presiding Elder.

§ 30. No preaching-place shall be discontinued in the intervals between the sessions of the Annual Conference without the consent and advice of the Quarterly Conference and of the Presiding Elder; and when thus discontinued the names of the Members shall be transferred to such contiguous Classes as the Members may select.

**CHAPTER IX.**

**SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNUATED  
MINISTERS.**

**Supernumerary Ministers.**

¶ 194. A Supernumerary Minister is one who, because of impaired health, is temporarily unable to perform full work. He may receive an appointment, or be left without one, according to the judgment of the Annual Conference of which he is a member; and he shall be subject to all the limitations of the Discipline in respect to re-appointment and continuance in the same Charge that apply to Effective Ministers. In case he has no Pastoral Charge, he shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of membership, in the place where he resides. He shall report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference, and to the Pastor, all Marriages solemnized and all Baptisms administered. In case he resides beyond the bounds of his Conference he shall forward annually a Certificate similar to that required of a Superannuated Minister. He shall have no claim on the Conference funds except by vote of the Conference.

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**Superannuated Ministers.**

¶ 195. Every Superannuated Minister, who is not employed as Pastor of a Charge, shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of member-

¶ 195. SUPERNUMERARY AND SUPERANNUATED.

ship in the Church where he resides. He shall report to the Fourth Quarterly Conference and to the Pastor all Marriages solemnized and all Baptisms administered. If he resides without the bounds of the Conference of which he is a Member, he shall annually forward to his Conference a certificate of his Christian and Ministerial conduct, together with an account of the number and circumstances of his family, signed by the Presiding Elder of the District or the Pastor of the Charge within whose bounds he resides; without which the Conference shall not be required to allow his claim, and may locate him without his consent.

#### PART IV.

## LOCAL PREACHERS AND LAY HELPERS.



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- ## I. LOCAL PREACHERS.

## II. EXHORTERS.

### III. DEACONESSES.

## CHAPTER I.

## LOCAL PREACHERS.

¶ 196. Wherever a District Conference exists, the powers hereinafter conferred on Quarterly Conferences in relation to Local Preachers and Exhorters shall be exercised only by the District Conference; but it shall not license any person to preach, nor renew the License of any person to preach or exhort, nor recommend any Local Preacher to the Annual Conference for Orders, or for Recognition of Orders, or for Reception on Trial, without the previous recommendation of the Quarterly Conference, or of the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting of the Charge of which such person or Preacher is a Member,

¶ 197. The Quarterly Conference, where no District Conference exists, shall have authority—

1. To license proper persons to preach; *provided*, they shall have been previously recommended by the Society of which they are Members, or by the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting; shall have passed a satisfactory examination in the studies prescribed for candidates for License to preach; shall have been examined in the presence of the Conference on the subject of Doctrine and Discipline; and shall also have satisfactorily answered the question, Will you wholly abstain from the use of tobacco? And no Member of the Church shall be at liberty to preach without such a License.
2. To examine Local Preachers in the Course of Study prescribed for them; to inquire into the gifts, labors,

**¶ 198, § 1. LOCAL PREACHERS.**

and usefulness of each by name; and to renew their Licenses annually when, in the judgment of the Conference, their gifts, grace, and usefulness, and their faithfulness and proficiency in study, warrant such renewal.

3. To recommend to the Annual Conference Local Preachers who are suitable candidates for Deacons' or Elders' Orders (¶¶ 165, 168), for Recognition of Orders (¶ 154), or for Reception on Trial (¶ 146), such candidates having been previously examined in the presence of the Quarterly Conference on the subject of Doctrine and Discipline.

4. To try, suspend, deprive of Ministerial office and Credentials, expel, or acquit any Local Preacher of the Circuit or Station against whom Charges shall have been preferred. ¶¶ 236-243.

NOTE.—For the Licensing, Amenability, and Appeal of Local Preachers in Missions in the United States and Territories, see ¶ 356.

¶ 198, § 1. Every Local Preacher, ordained or unordained, not having a Pastoral Charge, shall be a member of, and amenable to, the Quarterly Conference where he resides.

§ 2. But if he has a Pastoral Charge, his Quarterly Conference membership shall be in that Charge.

§ 3. Whenever a Preacher is Located or Discontinued by an Annual Conference he shall thereupon hold his Quarterly Conference membership where he resides at the time of Location or Discontinuance.

§ 4. When a Local Preacher shall change his residence he shall procure from the Pastor of the Charge from which he removes, or from the Presiding Elder of the District, a Certificate of his Official Standing and of Dismissal, and shall present it to the Pastor of the Charge to which he removes. If he neglects to do this he shall

## LOCAL PREACHERS.

not be recognized, nor use his office, as a Local Preacher in the Charge to which he has removed; and he shall continue to be amenable to the Quarterly Conference of the Charge from which he has removed, which may, if the neglect be long continued, after due notice, try him for persistent disobedience to the order of the Church, and upon conviction thereof deprive him of Ministerial Office and Credentials.

¶ 199. The Presiding Elders and the Pastors are required so to arrange the appointments, wherever it is practicable, as to give the Local Preachers regular and systematic employment on the Sabbath.

¶ 200. Every Local Preacher shall be enrolled in a Class, and meet with it. He shall make to the District or Quarterly Conference a report of his labors, as follows: 1. Number of Sermons preached; 2. Number of Prayer Meetings attended; 3. Number of Class Meetings attended; 4. Number of Sunday Schools attended; 5. Number of Funerals conducted; 6. Miscellaneous Items. He shall also report (1) the Number of Marriages solemnized, with the names of the persons married; and (2) the Number of Baptisms administered, with the names and ages of the persons baptized, that due entry may be made by the Pastor in the Church Records. If a Local Preacher be found neglectful of any of the above duties, or unacceptable in his Ministerial office, the Quarterly Conference may, after due trial, deprive him of his Ministerial office.

¶ 201. Whenever a Local Preacher fills the place of a Pastor, with the approbation of the Presiding Elder, he shall be paid for his time a sum proportioned to the allowance of the Pastor, which sum shall be paid by the Charge at the next Quarterly Meeting, if the Pastor whose place he filled was either sick or necessarily



absent; and in other cases, out of the allowance of the Pastor.

¶ 202. If a Local Preacher be distressed in his temporal circumstances on account of his service in the Charge he may apply to the Quarterly Conference, which may give him such relief as is judged proper, after the allowance of the Pastors and their families, and all other regular allowances, are paid.

## CHAPTER II.

### EXHORTERS.

¶ 203. An Exhorter shall be constituted by the recommendation of the Class of which he is a member, or of the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting of the Charge, and a License signed by the Pastor.

¶ 204. The duties of an Exhorter are, to hold Meetings for Prayer and Exhortation wherever opportunity is afforded, subject to the direction of the Pastor; to attend all the sessions of the District and Quarterly Conferences, and to present a written report to the same. He shall be subject to an annual examination of character in the Quarterly Conference, and a renewal of License, to be signed by the President thereof.

## CHAPTER III.

### DEACONESSES.

¶ 205. In all Annual Conferences, a Conference Deaconess Board of nine members, at least three of whom shall be women, shall be appointed by the Con-

ference for such term of service as the Conference may decide, whose duty it shall be to encourage and promote the establishment and support of Deaconess Homes and to exercise general control of this form of Christian work within the Conference, according to the provisions of this chapter. This Board shall furnish annually to the Annual Conference a statement of the number of Deaconesses in each Home, how employed, and the amount of money received, and how expended, and such other statistics as the Annual Conference may require.

¶ 206. Each candidate for license as a Deaconess must be over twenty-five years of age, and recommended by the Quarterly Conference of the Church of which she is a Member, and when coming from a training institution or Home, by the superintendent or managers of the same. She must also have given two years of continuous probationary service, and have passed a satisfactory examination by the Conference Board as to religious qualification and in the course of study prescribed for Deaconesses by the Bishops.

¶ 207. The Conference Board shall grant License to all women thus qualified and recommended, and shall arrange for their Consecration as Deaconesses according to a uniform order of service prescribed by the Discipline (App. ¶ 55), and shall report each year the names and work of such Deaconesses to the Annual Conference, the approval of which shall be necessary for the continuance of any Deaconess in her office.

¶ 208. The duties of a Deaconess are to minister to the poor, care for the sick, provide for the orphan, comfort the sorrowing, seek the wandering, save the sinning, and, relinquishing all other pursuits, to devote herself to these and other forms of Christian labor. No

vow of perpetual service shall be exacted from any Deaconess. She shall be at liberty to relinquish her position as such at any time, but while engaged in this voluntary service she shall be entitled to a suitable support. She shall also wear the distinctive costume prescribed by the Home with which she is connected, and it is recommended that this garb be as uniform as practicable throughout the Church.

¶ 209. Each Deaconess not in a Home shall be under the direction of the Pastor of the Church of which she is a Member, who shall certify to her character and standing when removing to a Home or another Charge, but those who are members of a Home shall be subordinate to and directed by the superintendent in charge, who shall certify in writing the character and standing of any Deaconess removing to another Home or to another field of labor in which she is regularly employed.

¶ 210. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society, and other benevolent societies of the Church may freely employ Deaconesses and maintain Homes in the prosecution of their work, but without altering the relation of said Deaconesses to the Church and the Conference within which they labor.

¶ 211. No Home shall be recognized as a Methodist Deaconess Home until it be authorized by the Conference Board, and approved by the Annual Conference, and shall conform to the regulations of this chapter, and no person shall be recognized or employed as a Deaconess of the Methodist Episcopal Church who does not comply with the foregoing disciplinary requirements.

¶ 212. The foregoing provisions, so far as they relate to Annual Conferences, shall be applicable also to Mission Conferences and Missions.

## PART V.

# JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.



- I. THE TRIAL AND APPEAL OF A BISHOP.
- II. THE TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.
- III. PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A PREACHER ON TRIAL.
- IV. THE TRIAL OF A LOCAL PREACHER.
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CHAPTER I.

THE TRIAL AND APPEAL OF A BISHOP.

¶ 213. A Bishop is answerable for his conduct to the General Conference, which shall have power to order the manner of his trial.

¶ 214. When a Bishop is accused of immoral conduct, the Presiding Elder within whose District said immorality is alleged to have been committed shall call to his aid four Traveling Elders, which five Ministers shall carefully inquire into the case; and if, in their judgment, there is reasonable ground for such accusation, they, or a majority of them, shall prepare and sign the proper charge in the case, and shall send a copy thereof, so signed, to the accused, and shall give notice thereof to one of the Bishops. Said Bishop, so notified, shall convene a Judicial Conference, to be composed of the Triers of Appeals, appointed as hereinafter provided, in five neighboring Conferences. And the said Judicial Conference shall have full power to try the accused Bishop, and to suspend him from the functions of his Office, or expel him from the Church, as they may deem his offense requires. One of the Bishops shall preside at his trial.

¶ 215. The accused shall have the right of peremptory challenge, yet not so as to reduce the number of the Judicial Conference below twenty-one.

¶ 216. The President of such Judicial Conference shall, at the commencement of the trial, appoint a Secretary, who shall make a correct record of the proceed-

## ¶ 217. TRIAL AND APPEAL OF A BISHOP.

ings, and of all the evidence in the case, which, when read and approved, shall be signed by the President and Secretary.

¶ 217. In case of imprudent conduct, the Presiding Elder within whose District the alleged offense occurred shall take with him two Traveling Elders, and shall admonish the Bishop so offending. In case of a second offense, one of the Bishops, together with three Traveling Elders, shall call upon him, and reprehend and admonish him. If he still persist in his imprudence, he shall then be tried in the manner ordered in ¶¶ 214-216.

¶ 218. In case the alleged immorality or imprudence has been committed without the bounds of any District, the Presiding Elder within the bounds of whose District the Bishop resides shall proceed as hereinbefore specified.

¶ 219. When a Bishop disseminates, publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion or established standards of doctrine, the same process shall be observed as is prescribed in ¶¶ 214-216.

¶ 220. A Bishop shall have the right of Appeal to the ensuing General Conference, if he signify his intention to appeal within three months of the time when he is informed of his conviction. And in case of an Appeal, the record of the trial and all the documents relating to the case, including the charges and specifications, shall be transmitted to the ensuing General Conference, which record and documents only shall be used in evidence in the trial of the Appeal. The General Conference may, at its discretion, hear the Appeal by a Judicial Committee of its own number.

¶ 221. Complaint against the administration of a

## **TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE. ¶ 222, § 2.**

Bishop may be forwarded to the General Conference, and entertained there; *provided*, that in its judgment he has had due notice that such complaint would be made.

NOTE.—For Amenability and Trial of a Missionary Bishop, see ¶¶ 182-188.

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## **CHAPTER II.**

### **TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.**

¶ 222. When a Member of an Annual Conference is under report of being guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the Word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory:

§ 1. In the interval between the sessions of the Annual Conference the Presiding Elder shall call not less than five nor more than nine Members of the Conference to investigate the case, and, if possible, bring the accused and accuser face to face. He shall preside throughout the proceedings, and shall certify and declare the verdict of the Committee; and he shall cause a correct record of the charges, specifications, proceedings, and evidence in the investigation to be kept and transmitted to the Annual Conference.

§ 2. But if the accused be a Presiding Elder, three of the senior Ministers of his District shall inquire into the character of the report, and, if they judge it necessary, they shall call in the Presiding Elder of any adjoining District of the Conference, who shall appoint a Committee of not less than five or more than nine Elders of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a Member, to investigate the case, and he shall also preside at the investigation.



## ¶ 222, § 3. TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.

§ 3. If in either of the above cases of investigation the accused, after due notice given him, shall refuse or neglect to appear before the Committee, the investigation shall proceed in his absence. If in either case the charge be sustained the accused shall be suspended by the Committee from all Ministerial services and Church privileges until the ensuing Annual Conference, at which his case shall be fully considered and determined upon the evidence contained in the record of the investigation, and such other evidence as may be admitted.

§ 4. A Supernumerary or Superannuated Minister residing without the bounds of his own Conference shall be subject, under the authority of the Presiding Elder of the District within which he resides, to the investigation prescribed in ¶ 222, § 1. But, in such case, all the papers, including the record of the investigation, charges, evidence, and findings, shall be transmitted to the ensuing session of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a Member, on which papers, and such other evidence as may be admitted, the case shall be determined.

§ 5. If, in any of the foregoing cases of investigation, counsel has not been provided for the Church, or for the accused, the Presiding Elder shall have power to appoint counsel for both, or for either.

§ 6. In both the investigation and the trial of a Minister, witnesses from without shall not be rejected, and the testimony of an absent witness may be taken before the Preacher in Charge where such witness resides, or before a Preacher appointed by the Presiding Elder of the District within which such witness resides; *provided*, in every case sufficient notice has been given to the adverse party of the time and place of taking such testimony.

## TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE. ¶ 226.

§ 7. An Annual Conference may entertain and try charges against its Members though no investigation upon them has been held, or though an investigation has not resulted in suspension, due notice having been given to the accused.

¶ 223. Any Traveling or Local Preacher who shall hold religious service within the bounds of any Mission, Circuit, or Station, when requested by the Preacher in Charge not to hold such services, shall be deemed guilty of imprudent conduct, and shall after the admonitions ordered in ¶¶ 224, 240, and if he do not refrain from such conduct, be liable to charges and investigation or trial under the provisions of the Discipline relating to these respective classes of Preachers. A Local Preacher offending against this provision may be tried in the Charge where the offense was committed.

¶ 224. In cases of improper temper, words, or actions, the Minister so offending shall be admonished by his senior in office. Should a second transgression take place, one, two, or three Ministers are to be taken as witnesses. If he continue to offend, let the Presiding Elder proceed as in ¶ 222, § 1.

¶ 225. When a Member of an Annual Conference fails in business, or contracts debts which he is not able to pay, the Presiding Elder shall appoint three judicious Members of the Church to inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances of the supposed delinquent; and if, in their opinion, he has behaved dishonestly, or contracted debts without the probability of paying, let the case be disposed of according to ¶ 222, § 1.

¶ 226. When a Member of an Annual Conference disseminates, publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion or established standards of doctrine, let the same process be observed

## ¶ 227. TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.

as is directed in ¶ 222, § 1. But if, after the charge is sustained, the Minister so offending, does solemnly engage to the Committee of investigation not to disseminate such erroneous doctrines in public or private, the Committee may waive suspension, that the case may be laid before the next Annual Conference, which shall determine the matter.

¶ 227. When a Member of an Annual Conference, in the interval between the sessions of his Conference, declines or ceases to do the work to which he was duly appointed, except for the reasons indicated in ¶ 162, let the Presiding Elder proceed as directed in ¶ 222, § 1. If the Presiding Elder fail to do this, he shall account therefor to the next Annual Conference.

¶ 228. When it is alleged of a Member of an Annual Conference that he is so unacceptable or inefficient as to be no longer useful in his work, or, without reason of impaired health of himself or family disqualifying him for pastoral work, goes into secular business, his case shall be referred to a Committee of five or more Members of his Conference for inquiry, and if said Committee shall find the allegation sustained, and shall so recommend, the Conference may request him to locate. If he shall refuse, and the conditions complained of shall continue, the Conference may, at its next session, after formal trial and conviction, locate him without his consent. But he shall have the right of appeal to a Judicial Conference, which may restore him.

¶ 229. In cases of alleged maladministration—

§ 1. A Minister shall be answerable to his Conference on the charge of corrupt, negligent, or partisan administration, but not for errors in judgment.

§ 2. Errors or defects in Judicial Proceedings shall be duly considered when presented on appeal. But

## TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE. ¶ 230.

Errors of Law or Administration connected with investigations under ¶ 222, and Errors of Law made by a Presiding Elder in cases of appeal to a Quarterly Conference are to be corrected by the President of the next Annual Conference on appeal in open session, and the Conference may also order just and suitable remedies for the injury resulting from such errors.

§ 3. Errors of Administration not connected with Judicial Proceedings may be presented in writing to the Annual Conference, for its judgment thereon, and the Conference may also order just and suitable remedies when the rights of Ministers or Members of the Church have been injuriously affected by such errors.

¶ 230. The Annual Conference may, at its discretion, try an accused Member in either of the three following methods:

1. The entire trial, including the examination of witnesses, may be by the Conference in full session.

2. The Bishop may appoint an Elder as a Commissioner to take the evidence in, the case, in whole or in part; and said Commissioner shall cause a correct record of the proceedings before him, and of the evidence signed by the witnesses respectively, to be laid before the Conference, upon which evidence, and such other as may be admitted, the case shall be determined.

3. Or, the Conference may appoint from its Members a Select Number of not less than nine nor more than fifteen, to try the accused, who shall have the right to challenge for cause; which Select Number, in the presence of a Bishop, or of a Chairman whom the President of the Conference shall have appointed, and one or more of the Secretaries of the Conference, shall have full power to consider and determine the case according to the rules which govern Annual Conferences in such pro-



## ¶ 231. TRIAL OF A MEMBER OF CONFERENCE.

ceedings; and they shall make a faithful report in writing of all their proceedings, duly subscribed by the President and Secretary of the Select Number, to the Secretary of the Conference, and deliver up to him the bill of charges, the evidence taken, and the decision rendered, with all other documents brought into the trial.

But the Annual Conference may, when a case cannot be tried during the session for want of testimony, refer it to one of the Presiding Elders, who shall proceed as directed in ¶ 222, § 1.

¶ 231. When a Minister is tried on a charge of immorality, and the Conference or the Select Number shall find that this charge is not sustained by the evidence, but that the Minister has been proven guilty of "high imprudence and unministerial conduct," it may declare this fact, and subject the offender to reproof, suspension, or deprivation of Ministerial office and Credentials.

¶ 232. In no case, of either an investigation or the trial of a Member of an Annual Conference, shall any person act as Counsel who is not a Member of an Annual Conference.

¶ 233. In case any Member of an Annual Conference be deposed from the Ministry without being expelled from the Church, he shall have his Membership in the Church where he resides.

¶ 234. After a Minister shall have been regularly tried and expelled he shall have no privileges of Society or Sacraments in our Church, without contrition, reformation, and confession, satisfactory to the Conference from which he was expelled.

¶ 235. When a Traveling Preacher is accused of immorality and desires to withdraw from the Church, the

Annual Conference may permit him to withdraw, in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under complaints." If formal charges of immorality have been presented he may be permitted to withdraw, in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under charges:" and if thus withdrawn under "complaints," or under "charges," the relation to the Church of the Preacher thus withdrawn shall be the same as if he had been expelled.

### CHAPTER III.

#### PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A PREACHER ON TRIAL.

¶ 236. A Preacher on Trial in an Annual Conference is, in reference to Amenability and Appeal, considered as a Local Preacher; but in his case the Presiding Elder shall perform the duties which are prescribed to the Preacher in Charge in the case of an accused Local Preacher.

### CHAPTER IV.

#### THE TRIAL OF A LOCAL PREACHER.

¶ 237. When a Local Preacher (ordained or unordained) is reported to be guilty of some crime expressly forbidden in the word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, the Preacher in Charge shall call a Committee of investigation, consisting of three or more Local Preachers, before which it shall be the duty of the accused to appear, and by which, if the charge is sustained, he shall be suspended from all Ministerial services and Church privi-

¶ 238. TRIAL OF A LOCAL PREACHER.

leges until the next District or Quarterly Conference. If the accused refuse or neglect to appear before said Committee, the investigation may proceed in his absence. And the Preacher in Charge shall cause exact minutes of the charges, testimony, and proceedings in the investigation, together with the decision of the Committee, to be laid before the District or Quarterly Conference, where it shall be the duty of the accused to appear for trial.

¶ 238. Should the Conference order a trial, its President shall appoint a Secretary, who shall make a correct record of the proceedings and evidence in the case, and if the accused be found guilty, the Conference shall affix a penalty to the offense, according to ¶ 197.

¶ 239. Should the District Conference having jurisdiction in the case of an accused Local Preacher judge it expedient to try him by a Select Number, it may appoint not less than nine nor more than fifteen of its members for the purpose, the accused having the right to challenge for cause; which Select Number, in the presence of a Bishop or an Elder whom the President of the District Conference may appoint, and with a Secretary appointed by the District Conference, shall have full power to consider and determine the case according to the rules which govern District Conferences in such cases: and the Secretary shall make a faithful report in writing of all the proceedings and evidence to the Secretary of the District Conference, and shall deliver up to him all the papers in the case.

¶ 240. In case of improper tempers, words, or actions, the Local Preacher so offending shall be admonished by the Preacher in Charge. Should a second transgression take place, one, two, or three Members of the Church are to be taken as witnesses. If he continue to offend,

## TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER. ¶ 244.

he shall be tried at the next District or Quarterly Conference, and, if found guilty and impenitent, he shall be expelled from the Church.

¶ 241. When a Local Preacher disseminates, publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion or established standards of doctrine, let the same process be observed as is directed in ¶¶ 237, 238.

¶ 242. When a Local Preacher fails in business, or contracts debts which he is not able to pay, let the Preacher in Charge appoint three judicious Members of the Church to inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances of the supposed delinquent; and if, in their opinion, he has behaved dishonestly, or contracted debts without the probability of paying, let the case be disposed of according to ¶¶ 237, 238.

¶ 243. When, in the judgment of the Presiding Elder, a fair and impartial trial cannot be had in the Quarterly Conference where the accused holds his membership, the Presiding Elder may refer the case to some other Quarterly Conference within the bounds of his District for trial.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER.

#### I. Immoral Conduct.

¶ 244. A Member of the Church accused of immorality shall be brought to trial before a Committee of not less than five Members of the Church who are not members of the Quarterly Conference. They shall be chosen by the Preacher in Charge, and, if he judge it to be neces-



## ¶ 245. TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER.

sary, he may select them from any part of the District; and the parties may challenge for cause. The Preacher in Charge shall preside in the trial, and shall cause a correct record of the proceedings and evidence to be made.

¶ 245. If the accused person be found guilty by the decision of a majority of the Committee, and the crime be such as is expressly forbidden in the word of God, sufficient to exclude a person from the kingdom of grace and glory, let the Preacher in Charge expel him.

¶ 246. But if in view of mitigating circumstances and of humble and penitent confession the Committee find that a lower penalty is proper, it may either impose censure on the offender, or suspend him from all Church privileges for a definite time, at its discretion.

¶ 247. If the accused person, after sufficient notice given him, shall refuse or neglect to appear before the Committee, he may be tried in his absence, and, if found guilty, he shall be expelled.

## II. Imprudent and Unchristian Conduct.

¶ 248. In cases of neglect of duties of any kind, imprudent conduct, indulging sinful tempers or words, the buying, selling, or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, signing petitions in favor of granting license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, becoming bondsmen for persons engaged in such traffic, renting property as a place in or on which to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors, dancing, playing at games of chance, attending theaters, horse races, circuses, dancing parties, or patronizing dancing schools, or taking such other amusements as are obviously of misleading or questionable moral tendency, or disobedience to the order and Discipline of the Church—first, let private reproof be given by the Pastor or

## **TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER. ¶ 250.**

Leader, and if there be an acknowledgment of the fault, and proper humiliation, the person may be borne with. On the second offense the Pastor or Leader may take one or two discreet Members of the Church. On a third offense let him be brought to trial, and if found guilty, and there be no sign of real humiliation, he shall be expelled.

### **III. Neglect of the Means of Grace.**

¶ 249. When a Member of our Church habitually neglects the means of grace, such as the Public Worship of God, the Supper of the Lord, family and private Prayer, searching the Scriptures, Class Meetings and Prayer Meetings—

§ 1. Let the Preacher in Charge, whenever it is practicable, visit him and explain to him the consequence if he continue to neglect.

§ 2. If he do not amend, let the Preacher in Charge bring his case before a Committee of not less than five, who are not members of the Quarterly Conference, before which he shall be cited to appear. And if he be found guilty of willful neglect by the decision of a majority of the Members before whom the case is brought, let him be excluded.

### **IV. Causing Dissension.**

¶ 250. If a Member of our Church shall be accused of endeavoring to sow dissension in any of our Societies, by inveighing against either our Doctrines or Discipline, the person so offending shall first be reprov'd by the Preacher in Charge; and if he persist in such pernicious practice he shall be brought to trial, and, if found guilty, shall be expelled.

## ¶ 251. TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER.

### V. Disagreement in Business—Arbitration.

¶ 251. On any disagreement between two or more Members of our Church concerning business transactions, which cannot be settled by the parties, the Preacher in Charge shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and shall recommend to the parties a reference, consisting of two arbiters chosen by one party, and two chosen by the other party, which four arbiters so chosen shall choose a fifth; the five arbiters being Members of our Church. The Preacher in Charge shall preside, and the Disciplinary forms of trial shall be observed.

¶ 252. If either party refuse to abide by the judgment of the arbiters he shall be brought to trial, and if he fail to show sufficient cause for such refusal he shall be expelled.

¶ 253. If any Member of our Church shall refuse, in case of debt or other dispute, to refer the matter to arbitration when recommended so to do by the Preacher in Charge, or shall enter into a lawsuit with another Member before these measures are taken, he shall be brought to trial, and if he fail to show that the case is of such a nature as to require and justify a process at law he shall be expelled.

¶ 254. If, in the case of debt or dispute, one of the parties is a Minister, the duties laid on the Preacher in Charge in the foregoing paragraph shall be performed by the Presiding Elder of the Minister concerned. If both are Ministers, the Presiding Elder of either may act in the case.

### VI. Insolvency.

¶ 255. The Preachers in Charge are required to execute all our Rules fully and strenuously against all frauds, and particularly against dishonest insolvencies,

## TRIAL OF AN ACCUSED MEMBER. ¶ 261.

suffering none to remain in our Church on any account who are found guilty of any fraud.

¶ 256. To prevent scandal, when any Member of the Church fails in business, or contracts debts which he is not able to pay, let two or three judicious Members of the Church inspect the accounts, contracts, and circumstances of the supposed delinquent; and if they judge that he has behaved dishonestly, or borrowed money without a probability of paying, let him be brought to trial, and, if found guilty, expelled.

### VII. General Directions Concerning Trials.

¶ 257. In all cases of trial of Members let all witnesses for the Church be duly notified by the Preacher in Charge. The order concerning absent witnesses and witnesses from without shall be the same as that observed in the trial of Ministers. The accused shall have the right to call to his assistance as counsel any Member or Minister in good and regular standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 258. When the Quarterly Conference, sitting to hear Appeals, remands a case for a new trial, the Preacher in Charge shall proceed to try the accused Member again unless the charges are withdrawn.

¶ 259. In all cases requiring the accused Member to be expelled the Preacher in Charge shall pronounce the sentence of expulsion.

¶ 260. An expelled person shall have no privileges of Society or of the Sacraments in our Church without confession, contrition, and satisfactory reformation.

¶ 261. In all cases of trial and appeal it is improper for the Presiding Officer to deliver a charge to the Committee explaining the evidence and setting forth the merits of the case.



## ¶ 262. THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.

### CHAPTER VI.

#### THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.

¶ 262. The several Annual Conferences shall, at each session, select seven Elders, men of experience and sound judgment in the affairs of the Church, who shall be known as Triers of Appeals.

¶ 263. When notice of Appeal is given to the President of an Annual Conference, he shall proceed, with due regard to the wishes and rights of the Appellant, to designate three Conferences conveniently near to that from which the Appeal is taken, whose Triers of Appeals shall constitute a Judicial Conference, and to fix the time and place of its session; he shall also give notice thereof to all concerned. When said Conference shall have assembled, it shall be competent to try Appeals which may be presented to it from any Conference conveniently near, due notice having been given to all concerned.

¶ 264. The Appellant shall have the right of peremptory challenge, yet so that the Triers of Appeals present, and ready to proceed with the hearing, shall not fall below thirteen, which number shall be required for a quorum.

¶ 265. A Bishop shall preside in the Judicial Conference, and shall decide all Questions of Law arising in its proceedings, subject to an appeal to the General Conference. The Conference shall appoint a Secretary, who shall keep a faithful record of all the proceedings, and shall, at the close of the trial, transmit the records made and the papers sub-

mitted in the case, or certified copies thereof, to the Secretary of the preceding General Conference, to be filed and preserved with the papers of that body. But if the case be remanded for a new trial, the papers submitted shall be returned to the Secretary of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a Member.

## CHAPTER VII.

### APPEALS OF MINISTERS.

¶ 266. In all cases of trial and conviction of Members of the Annual Conferences, an Appeal shall be allowed to a Judicial Conference, constituted as hereinbefore provided, if the condemned person signify his intention to appeal within three months of the time when he is informed of his conviction.

¶ 267. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Annual Conference carefully to preserve the minutes of the trial, whether before a Select Number or before the Conference, and all the documents relating to the case, together with the charge or charges, and the specification or specifications, which minutes and documents only, in case of an Appeal from the decision of an Annual Conference, shall be presented to the Judicial Conference in evidence in the case.

¶ 268. In all cases where an Appeal is made, and admitted by the Judicial Conference, the Appellant shall state, either personally or by his representative, the grounds of his Appeal, showing the reason why he appeals, and he shall be allowed to make his Appeal without interruption. After which the Representatives of the Annual Conference from whose decision the

Appeal is made shall be permitted to respond in presence of the Appellant, who shall have the privilege of replying to such Representatives, which reply shall close the pleadings on both sides. This done, the parties shall withdraw, and the Judicial Conference shall decide the case. It may reverse, in whole or in part, the findings of the Annual Conference, or it may remand the case for a new trial. It may determine what penalty, not higher than that affixed by the Annual Conference, shall be imposed. If it neither reverse, in whole or in part, the judgment of the Annual Conference, nor remand the case for a new trial, the judgment of the Annual Conference shall stand. But it shall not reverse the judgment, nor remand the case for a new trial on account of errors plainly not affecting the result.

Counsel on both sides shall be Members of an Annual Conference.

¶ 269. Appeals from an Annual Conference in the United States not easily accessible may, at the discretion of the President thereof, be heard by a Judicial Conference selected from among the more accessible Conferences. Appeals from an Annual or Mission Conference not in the United States may be heard at the discretion of the Bishop in permanent charge thereof (due reference being had to the rights and interests of all concerned), either by a Judicial Conference called by said Bishop from neighboring foreign Conferences, or by a Judicial Conference called by him to meet at or near New York, or by the General Conference through a special Judicial Committee appointed for the purpose.

¶ 270. When the case of any Minister who has been suspended or expelled is remanded for a new trial, he

shall be suspended from all Ministerial service until the next ensuing session of the Annual Conference.

¶ 271. The General Conference shall carefully review the decisions of Questions of Law contained in the records and documents transmitted to it from the Judicial Conferences, and in case of serious error therein shall take such action as justice may require.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### APPEALS OF LOCAL PREACHERS.

¶ 272. In case of condemnation, a Local Preacher shall be allowed to appeal to the next Annual Conference, provided that he signify to the District or Quarterly Conference his determination to appeal; in which case the President of the District or Quarterly Conference shall lay the minutes of the trial before the said Annual Conference, at which the Local Preacher, so appealing, may appear; and the said Annual Conference, by a Select Number, as in the case of accused Members thereof, or in full session, shall judge, and finally determine the case from the minutes of the said trial so laid before it.

NOTE.—For Appeals of Local Preachers from judgments of the Annual Meeting of a Foreign Mission, see ¶ 357.

## CHAPTER IX.

### APPEALS OF MEMBERS.

¶ 273. If there is a murmur or complaint from any excluded person in any of the above-mentioned instances (¶¶ 244–256) that justice has not been done,



he, not having absented himself from trial after due notice was given him, shall be allowed an Appeal to the next Quarterly Conference which shall hear and determine the case; and no member thereof who was a member of the Committee for the trial of such person shall be permitted to vote on the case; and the Preacher in Charge shall present exact minutes of the evidence and proceedings of the trial to the Quarterly Conference, from which minutes the case shall be finally determined. And if, in the judgment of the Presiding Elder, an impartial trial cannot be had in the Quarterly Conference of the Charge where the Appellant resides, he shall, on the demand of either party, cause the Appeal to be tried by any other Quarterly Conference within his District, after due notice to the Complainant and Appellant.

## CHAPTER X.

### RESTORATION OF CREDENTIALS.

¶ 274. When any Member of an Annual Conference is deprived of his Credentials, by expulsion or otherwise, they shall be filed with the papers of his Conference; and should he, at any future time, give satisfactory evidence to the said Conference of his amendment, and procure a certificate of the Quarterly Conference of the Charge where he resides, or of an Annual Conference which may have received him on Trial, recommending to the Annual Conference of which he was formerly a Member the restoration of his Credentials, the said Conference may restore them.

¶ 275. When a Local Elder or Deacon shall be ex-

## RESTORATIONS OF CREDENTIALS. ¶ 275.

pelled, the Presiding Elder shall require of him the Credentials of his ordination, to be filed with the papers of the Annual Conferences within the limits of which the expulsion has taken place. And should he, at any future time, produce to the Annual Conference a certificate of his restoration, signed by the President and counter-signed by the Secretary of the Quarterly Conference, his Credentials may be restored to him.

Colombia is now no nearer to him.

CHAPTER I  
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OF THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE SUBJECT

I. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS

**PART VI.**

II. AID OF SUPERIOR MINISTERS AND

OTHER CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS

**TEMPORAL ECONOMY.**

III. CHURCH AND STATE TRUSTS

IV. CHURCH AND STATE TRUSTS

V. CHURCH AND STATE TRUSTS

VI. CHURCH AND STATE TRUSTS



- I. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS.
- II. AID OF SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS AND  
OTHER CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS.
- III. CHURCH PROPERTY.
- IV. DENOMINATIONAL TRUSTS.

## CHAPTER I.

### SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS.

#### I. Stewards.

¶ 276. There shall be not less than three nor more than thirteen Stewards in each Circuit or Station, one of whom shall, after each annual election, be appointed by the Quarterly Conference a Recording Steward, and one a District Steward. But when two or more Charges shall be united the Stewards shall hold office until the First Quarterly Conference shall elect a new Board.

¶ 277. Let the Stewards be persons of solid piety, who both know and love Methodist Doctrine and Discipline, and who are of good natural and acquired abilities to transact the temporal business of the Church.

¶ 278. The Pastor shall have the right to nominate the Stewards, but the Quarterly Conference shall confirm or reject such nomination. The Stewards elected at the Fourth Quarterly Conference shall enter upon the discharge of their duties on the adjournment of the next Annual Conference, and shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected.

¶ 279. The duties of Stewards are: To take an exact account of all the money or other resources received for the support of the Ministers in the Charge, and to apply the same as the Discipline directs; to make an accurate return of every expenditure of money, whether for the Ministers or the poor Members of the Church; to seek

## ¶ 280. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS.

the needy and distressed in order to relieve and comfort them; to inform the Ministers of any sick or disorderly persons; to tell the Ministers what they think wrong in them; to attend the Quarterly Meetings, the Official Board Meetings, and the Leaders and Stewards' Meetings of the Charge; to give advice, if asked, in planning the Circuit; to attend committees for the application of money to Churches; to give counsel in matters of arbitration; to provide the elements for the Lord's Supper; to write circular letters to the Societies in the Circuit, exhorting them to greater liberality, if need be; and also to let them know, when occasion requires, the state of the temporal concerns of the Charge.

¶ 280. The duties of the District Stewards are: To attend the Annual District Stewards' Meeting when called by the Presiding Elder, and to perform the duties specified in ¶ 290.

¶ 281. Stewards are accountable for the faithful performance of their duties to the Quarterly Conference of the Charge, which shall have power to dismiss or change them at pleasure.

## II. Stewards and the Support of Ministers.

¶ 282. The more effectually to raise the amount necessary to meet the estimates made for the support of Effective Ministers, let the Stewards at the beginning of the year estimate the amount needed monthly. Then let them ascertain from each Member of the Church, and, as far as practicable, from each attendant of the Congregation, what each will give as his monthly contribution.

¶ 283. Let these sums be entered by the Recording Steward in a book which he shall keep as Treasurer of the Board of Stewards. If the total amount of these

sums does not equal the amount needed monthly, then let the Stewards apportion the deficiency among all such as are willing to assume such deficiency, setting down to each person, with his consent, the additional amount which they think he ought monthly to pay.

¶ 284. Let the Stewards then adopt and carry out a Financial Plan by which everyone, except such as prefer to make weekly contributions through their Class Leaders, shall have the opportunity of regularly contributing each month, or oftener, not grudgingly or of necessity, the sum which has been pledged by him. Let these contributions be paid over regularly to the Recording Steward or Class Leader, and be brought by him to the Leaders and Stewards' Meeting or Quarterly Conference, as the case may be; and let the Stewards report to the First Quarterly Conference of each year the details of the Financial Plan. Also, let them report to each subsequent Quarterly Conference whether the Plan, together with the further directions contained in this chapter, has been faithfully carried out. The Recording Steward shall keep an individual account of all these pledges and contributions, and shall pay over the moneys collected, under the direction of the Stewards, to the Ministers authorized to receive them.

### III. Support of Bishops.

¶ 285. The General Conference shall determine which of the Bishops are Effective and which Non-effective.

¶ 286. It shall be the duty of the Book Committee to make an estimate of the amount necessary to furnish a competent support to each Effective Bishop, considering the number and condition of his family; and the amount, if any, necessary to the comfortable maintenance of the



## ¶ 287. SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS.

Non-effective Bishops; and also the amount necessary to assist the widows and children of deceased Bishops: and the Bishops are authorized to draw on the Treasurer of the Episcopal Fund for said amount, and also for their Traveling Expenses.

¶ 287. The Bishop presiding at an Annual Conference, within whose bounds a widow or child of a deceased Bishop may reside, shall be authorized to draw on the Treasurer of the Episcopal Fund for such amount as may be estimated as aforesaid.

¶ 288. The Book Committee shall divide the aggregate sum required to be raised for these purposes among the Annual Conferences, on the basis of the total amount raised in the respective Annual Conferences for Ministerial support, exclusive of Missionary appropriations, and the Annual Conferences shall apportion the same to the several Districts, and the District Stewards to the several Charges. The amount apportioned to each Pastoral Charge for the support of the Bishops shall be a *pro rata* claim with that of the Pastors and Presiding Elders; and no Pastor or Presiding Elder shall be entitled to his allowance except to the extent to which the claims of the Bishops are also met by the Charge or District with which such Pastor and Elder are connected. And it shall be the duty of the Annual Conferences to see that the amounts apportioned to the different Pastoral Charges for the support of the Bishops are raised and forwarded quarterly, when practicable, to the Treasurer of the Episcopal Fund.

¶ 289. The Treasurer shall charge the sums paid to the Bishops, and to the widows and children of deceased Bishops, to the Episcopal Fund; and all collections received from the different Charges for the support of the Bishops shall be credited to said Fund. And

## SUPPORT OF EFFECTIVE MINISTERS. ¶ 291.

the Treasurer shall report annually to the Annual Conferences the amount received from the several Annual Conferences on account of said Fund, and also the expenditures made; and he shall also make to each General Conference a full and detailed exhibit of such receipts and expenditures for the preceding four years.

### IV. Support of Presiding Elders.

¶ 290. There shall be annually, in every District, a meeting of the District Stewards (¶ 276), whose duty it shall be, with the advice of the Presiding Elder, who shall preside in such meeting, to make an estimate of the amount necessary to furnish a comfortable support for the Presiding Elder, and to apportion the same, including House Rent and Traveling Expenses, and also the claim of the Bishops apportioned to the District by the Annual Conference, among the different Charges in the District, according to their several ability, and in all cases the Presiding Elder shall share with the Pastors in his District in proportion to what they have respectively received. But if there be a surplus of money raised for the support of the Pastors in one or more of the Charges in his District, he shall receive such surplus, provided he do not receive more than his allowance. The minutes of the District Stewards' meeting shall be kept by a Secretary chosen for the purpose, who shall also record the same in a book of which the Presiding Elder shall be the custodian.

### V. Support of Pastors.

¶ 291. It shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference of each Charge at the session immediately preceding the Annual Conference to appoint an Estimating Committee,

## ¶ 292. AID OF SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS, ETC.

consisting of three or more Members of the Church, who shall, after conferring with the Minister or Ministers stationed among them, make an estimate of the amount necessary to furnish to each a comfortable support, taking into consideration the number and condition of his family, which estimate shall be subject to the action of the Quarterly Conference; and to which shall be added the amount apportioned for the support of the Bishops and Presiding Elder; and the Stewards shall provide by such methods as they may judge best to meet such amount. The Traveling and Moving Expenses of the Ministers shall not be included in the estimate, but shall be paid by the Stewards as a separate item.

## CHAPTER II. AID OF SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS AND OTHER CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS.

¶ 292. Superannuated Preachers, the widows of deceased Preachers, and their children under sixteen years of age shall be Conference Claimants, unless the claim be voluntarily relinquished, or disallowed, in whole or in part, by the Conference. We recommend that each Annual Conference devote one service at each Annual Session to the interests of Conference Claimants; that each Annual Conference establish a permanent fund subject to its own control, and under such regulations as it may adopt, the income of which may be added to the other moneys for the support of its own Claimants; and that each Congregation shall annually observe a Sunday upon which the Pastor shall present this cause to the Members and friends of the Church. A collection shall be taken



annually in each Congregation for the support of Conference Claimants. The names of all Claimants on the funds of the Conference hereinafter provided for shall be referred to a Conference Board of Stewards. Each Conference shall determine for itself whether the action of this Board shall be final.

¶ 293. All moneys received by the Annual Conferences for distribution in aid of the support of Conference Claimants shall be divided into two sums: The *first* shall be called the Conference Claimant Fund, consisting of (1) the annual collections, taken in the Churches for the purpose; (2) the proceeds of the Chartered Fund and dividends of the Book Concern, in whole or in part, as may be determined by each Annual Conference; and (3) specific gifts and bequests. The *second* shall be called the Special or Annuity Fund, which shall consist of such sources of revenue as may be devised and appropriated by each Annual Conference. The Conference Claimant Fund shall be distributed annually among the persons whose claims are allowed on the basis of necessity. The Special or Annuity Fund shall be distributed upon the following basis: Each Superannuated Minister shall be allowed annually \$10 for each year of his effective service; each widow shall be allowed annually \$5 for each year in which she was the wife of a Minister during his effective service; *provided*, her name be entered on the Annuity List by order of the Conference; each child under sixteen years of age of a deceased Minister shall be allowed annually \$2 for each year of the father's effective service. These claims shall be paid *pro rata* from the moneys in hand by the Conference Board of Stewards, or by such Board as the Conference may approve. An amount sufficient to meet the allowance of the Conference Claimants under



## ¶ 294. AID OF SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS, ETC.

the provisions of this plan shall be apportioned among the Charges upon such a basis as the Conferences may determine.

¶ 294. It shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference of each Charge within whose bounds a Superannuated Minister or the widow or child of a deceased Minister may reside, to appoint a Committee whose duty it shall be to make an estimate of the amount necessary to provide such Minister, widow, or child a comfortable support; such estimate to be sent to the Board of Stewards of the Annual Conference with which the Claimant is connected. The Conference Board, however, may consider and report upon the case of any Claimant overlooked by the Quarterly Conference Committee.

¶ 295. Effective Ministers who have not been able to obtain their allowance from the people among whom they have labored may present a claim to the Conference to be paid out of the money at the disposal of the Conference; and such claim may be paid, or any part thereof, as the Conference may determine. In no case, however, shall the Church or Conference be held accountable for any deficiency, as in the case of debt.

¶ 296. Whenever any Claimant on the Funds of a Conference shall be in debt to the Book Concern, the Conference of which he is a Member shall have power to appropriate the amount of the claim allowed to him, or any part thereof, to the payment of said debt.

¶ 297. When a Member of an Annual Conference is accused of crime in the interval of the Conference session, and is suspended by a Committee, and subsequently convicted by his Conference and expelled, his claim upon the Funds of the Conference shall cease from the time of his suspension. And when a Member of an Annual Conference is suspended and is afterward restored,

he shall have no claim on the Congregation nor upon the Funds of the Conference during the period of such suspension.

¶ 298. Every Annual Conference has full liberty to adopt and recommend such plans and rules as it may deem necessary the more effectually to raise supplies for the respective allowances. Each Annual Conference is authorized to raise a Fund, if it judge proper, subject to its own control, and under such regulations as its wisdom may direct, for the relief of distressed Effective and Superannuated Ministers, their wives, widows, and children; and it shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to take measures, from year to year, to raise money in every Circuit and Station within its bounds for these purposes.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### CHURCH PROPERTY.

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##### I. Trustees—Their Appointment and Duties.

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¶ 299. Each Board of Trustees of our Church property shall consist of not less than three nor more than nine persons, each of whom shall be not less than twenty-one years of age, and two thirds of whom shall be Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 300. In all cases where the law of the State or Territory requires a specified mode of election, that mode shall be observed.

¶ 301. Where no specific requirement is made, the Trustees shall be elected annually by the Fourth Quar-

## ¶ 294. AID OF SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS, ETC.

the provisions of this plan shall be apportioned among the Charges upon such a basis as the Conferences may determine.

¶ 294. It shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference of each Charge within whose bounds a Superannuated Minister or the widow or child of a deceased Minister may reside, to appoint a Committee whose duty it shall be to make an estimate of the amount necessary to provide such Minister, widow, or child a comfortable support; such estimate to be sent to the Board of Stewards of the Annual Conference with which the Claimant is connected. The Conference Board, however, may consider and report upon the case of any Claimant overlooked by the Quarterly Conference Committee.

¶ 295. Effective Ministers who have not been able to obtain their allowance from the people among whom they have labored may present a claim to the Conference to be paid out of the money at the disposal of the Conference; and such claim may be paid, or any part thereof, as the Conference may determine. In no case, however, shall the Church or Conference be held accountable for any deficiency, as in the case of debt.

¶ 296. Whenever any Claimant on the Funds of a Conference shall be in debt to the Book Concern, the Conference of which he is a Member shall have power to appropriate the amount of the claim allowed to him, or any part thereof, to the payment of said debt.

¶ 297. When a Member of an Annual Conference is accused of crime in the interval of the Conference session, and is suspended by a Committee, and subsequently convicted by his Conference and expelled, his claim upon the Funds of the Conference shall cease from the time of his suspension. And when a Member of an Annual Conference is suspended and is afterward restored,

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¶ 300. In all cases where the law of the State or Territory requires a specified mode of election, that mode shall be observed.

¶ 301. Where no specific requirement is made, the Trustees shall be elected annually by the Fourth Quar-



terly Conference of the Charge, upon the nomination of the Pastor or the Presiding Elder of the District. In case of failure to elect at the proper time, a subsequent Quarterly Conference may elect; and all the Trustees shall hold their office until their successors are elected.

¶ 302. All the foregoing provisions shall apply both to the creation of new Boards and to the filling of vacancies, whether for houses of worship or dwellings for the Preachers.

¶ 303. No Trustee shall be ejected while he is in joint security for money unless such relief be given him as is demanded, or the creditor will accept, provided he remain a Member of our Church.

¶ 304. Charters obtained for our Church property shall conform in the manner of creating and filling Boards of Trustees to the provisions of this chapter.

¶ 305. The Board or Boards of Trustees in any Charge shall hold all our Church property, using so much of the proceeds as may be needful to pay debts or to make repairs, and shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference to which they shall make an annual report, at the Fourth Quarterly Conference, embracing the following items: 1. Number of Churches and Parsonages. 2. Their probable value. 3. Title by which held. 4. Income. 5. Expenditures. 6. Debts, and how contracted. 7. Insurance. 8. Amount raised during the year for building or improving Churches or Parsonages.

¶ 306. In no case shall the Trustees mortgage or encumber the real estate for the current expenses of the Church.

## II. Form for Conveyance of Church Property.

¶ 307. Before any real estate is purchased for either Church, Parsonage, or other purpose, let the Society, in

all States and Territories where the statutes will permit, first incorporate. Let the articles of incorporation provide that the Society shall be subject to the provisions of the Discipline, and the Usage and Ministerial appointments of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and the Annual Conference within whose bounds such corporation is situated, and that the secular affairs of such corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Trustees elected and organized according to the provisions of said Discipline. Let such article further provide that such corporation shall have power to acquire, hold, sell, and convey property, both real and personal. When this is done, let all property acquired be deeded directly to the Society in its corporate name.

¶ 308. In States where Church property is required to be held by Trustees, let all deeds under which the Church acquires property, whether designed for Church or Parsonage purposes, be made to the Trustees, naming them, and their successors in office, followed by these words: "In trust for the use and benefit of the Ministry and Membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America, subject to the Discipline, Usage, and Ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared, and if sold the proceeds shall be disposed of and used in accordance with the provisions of said Discipline."

¶ 309. In all other parts of such Conveyances, as well as in their attestation, acknowledgment, and placing them upon the record, let a careful conformity be had to the laws, usages, and forms of the particular State or Territory in which the property may be situated, so as to secure the ownership of the premises *in fee simple*.

¶ **310.** In future we will admit no Charter, Deed, or Conveyance for any house of worship to be used by us, unless it be provided in such Charter, Deed, or Conveyance that the Trustees of said house shall at all times permit such Ministers belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the General Conference of our Church, or by the Annual Conferences, to preach and expound therein God's holy word, to execute the Discipline of the Church, and to administer the Sacraments therein, according to the true meaning and purport of our Deed of Settlement.

### III. Building Churches.

¶ **311.** Let all our churches be plain and decent, and with free seats wherever practicable; and not more expensive than is absolutely unavoidable.

¶ **312.** In order more effectually to prevent our people from contracting debts which they are not able to discharge, it shall be the duty of the Quarterly Conference of every Charge where it is contemplated to build a house or houses of worship to secure the ground or lot on which such house or houses are to be built, according to our Deed of Settlement, which Deed must be legally executed; and said Quarterly Conference shall also appoint a judicious Committee of at least three Members of our Church, who shall form an estimate of the amount necessary to build; and three fourths of the money, according to such estimate, shall be secured or subscribed before any such building shall be commenced.

¶ **313.** In all cases where debts for building houses of worship have been, or may be, incurred contrary to or in disregard of the above recommendation, our Members and friends are requested to discountenance such a course

by declining to give pecuniary aid to any agents who shall travel beyond their own Circuits or Districts for the collection of funds for the discharge of such debts; except in such peculiar cases as may be approved by an Annual Conference, or in case of such agents as may be appointed by their authority.

#### IV. Sale of Church Property.

¶ 314. If the Trustees of Church property, or any of them, have advanced any sum or sums of money, or are responsible for any sum or sums of money on account of the said property, and they, the said Trustees, are obliged to pay the said sums of money, they, or a majority of them, shall be authorized to raise the said sum or sums of money by a mortgage on the said premises; or by selling the said premises after notice given to the Pastor or Minister of the congregation attending Divine service on the said premises, if the money due be not paid to the said Trustees, or their successors, within one year after such notice given. If such sale take place, the said Trustees, or their successors, after paying the debt and other expenses which are due from the money arising from such sale, shall pay the balance, if not needed and applied for the purchase or improvement of other property for the use of the Church, to the Annual Conference within whose bounds such property is located; and in case of the reorganization of the said Society, and the erection of a new Church building within five years after such transfer of funds, then the said Annual Conference shall repay to said new corporation the moneys which it had received from the Church or Society as above mentioned.

¶ 315. Whenever it shall become necessary for the



payment of debts, or with a view to reinvestment, to make a sale of Church property that may have been conveyed to Trustees or a Church corporation for either of the foregoing purposes, said Trustees or their successors may, upon application to the Quarterly Conference, obtain an order—a majority of all the members of such Quarterly Conference concurring, and the Pastor and the Presiding Elder of the District consenting—for the sale, with such limitations and restrictions as said Quarterly Conference may judge necessary; and said Trustees, so authorized, may sell and convey such property; *provided*, that in all cases the proceeds of the sale, after the payment of debts, if any, if not applied to the purchase or improvement of other property for the same uses, and deeded to the corporation in the same manner, shall be held by such corporation subject to the order of the Annual Conference within whose bounds such property is located, or of the Trustees of the Conference Fund.

¶ 316. In all cases where Church property is abandoned, or no longer used for the purpose originally designed, it shall be the duty of the Trustees, if any remain, to sell such property and pay over the proceeds to the Annual Conference within whose bounds it is located; and where no such lawful Trustees remain, it shall be the duty of said Annual Conference to secure the custody of such Church property by such means as the laws of the State may afford, subject to be returned in the same manner and upon the same contingencies as named in ¶ 314.

¶ 317. Houses of worship and Parsonages may be removed from one place to another on the same conditions on which they may be sold.

**IV. Building and Renting Parsonages.**

¶ 318. It is recommended by the General Conference that our Ministers advise our friends in general to purchase a lot of ground in each Charge, to build a Parsonage thereon, and to furnish it with, at least, heavy furniture.

¶ 319. The General Conference recommends to each Charge, in case it is not able to comply with the above request, to rent a house for its married Pastor and his family, and that the Annual Conferences assist to make up the rents of such houses as far as they can, when the Charges cannot do it.

¶ 320. The Stewards in each Charge shall be a standing Committee, where no Trustees are constituted for that purpose, to provide houses for the families of our married Ministers, or to assist the Ministers to obtain houses for themselves, when they are appointed to labor among them.

¶ 321. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Elders and Ministers to use their influence to carry the above rules, respecting building and renting houses for the accommodation of Ministers and their families, into effect. In order to this each Quarterly Conference shall appoint a Committee, unless other measures have been adopted, which, with the advice and aid of the Ministers and Presiding Elders, shall devise such means as may seem fit to raise moneys for that purpose. And it is recommended to the Annual Conferences to make a special inquiry of their Members respecting this part of their duty.

## CHAPTER IV.

## DENOMINATIONAL TRUSTS.

## I. Chartered Fund.

¶ 322. To make further provision for distressed Effective Ministers, for the families of Effective Ministers, for Superannuated and Worn-out Ministers, and for the widows and orphans of Ministers, there shall be a Chartered Fund, to be supported by the voluntary contributions of our friends; the principal stock of which shall be funded under the direction of Trustees chosen by the General Conference, and the interest applied under the direction of the General Conference, according to the following regulations, namely:

§ 1. The Presiding Elders, and the Pastors, shall be collectors and receivers of subscriptions, etc., for this Fund.

§ 2. The money shall, if possible, be conveyed by bills of exchange, or otherwise, through the means of the post, to the General Publishing Agents, who shall pay it to the Trustees of the Fund; otherwise it shall be brought to the ensuing Annual Conference.

§ 3. The interest shall be divided into as many equal parts as there are Annual Conferences, and each Annual Conference shall have authority to draw one of these parts out of the Fund; and if one or more Conferences shall draw out of this Fund in any given year less than one of these parts, then in such case or cases the other

Annual Conferences, held in the same year, shall have authority, if they judge it necessary, to draw out of the Fund such surplus of the interest as has not been applied by the former Conferences; and the Bishops shall bring the necessary information of the state of the interest of the Fund, respecting the year in question, from Conference to Conference.

§ 4. All drafts on the Chartered Fund shall be made on the Treasurer of the said Fund, by order of the Annual Conference, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary of the said Conference.

§ 5. The money subscribed for the Chartered Fund may be lodged, on proper securities, in the respective States in which it has been subscribed under the direction of deputies living in such States respectively; *provided*, such securities and such deputies be proposed as shall be approved of by the Trustees in Philadelphia, and the stock in which it is proposed to lodge the money be sufficiently productive to give satisfaction to the Trustees.

¶ 323. The Board of Trustees shall have power to fill any vacancy or vacancies that may occur in their body by death, resignation, or otherwise, subject, however, to the approval of the first General Conference that may be held after such vacancy or vacancies shall have occurred.

## II. Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 324. There shall be an incorporated Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, located at Cincinnati, composed of twelve members, divided into two classes of three Ministers and three Laymen each. The term of office shall be eight years. Each General Conference shall elect one class, and fill vacancies caused



by death, resignation, cessation of membership in the Church, or otherwise. Vacancies occurring in the interval of the General Conference shall be filled for the remainder of the quadrennium by the Bishops.

¶ 325. This Board shall hold in trust, for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, any and all donations, bequests, grants, and funds in trust, etc., that may be given or conveyed to said Board, or to the Methodist Episcopal Church, as such, for any benevolent object, and to administer the said funds, and the proceeds of the same, in accordance with the directions of the donors, and of the interests of the Church contemplated by said donors, under the direction of the General Conference; *provided*, that any sums thus donated or bequeathed, but not especially designated for any benevolent object, shall be appropriated to the "Permanent Fund;" and *provided*, also, that the Board shall not be required to accept any gift, bequest, or trust to which may be attached conditions that appear to the Board to be unreasonable, or likely to produce embarrassment; and having accepted in good faith, under the conditions imposed, any gift or bequest in trust for any one or more of the benevolent societies or other institutions under the patronage or direction of the Church, the Board shall be responsible only for the careful and economical administration of the same, and shall not be held to account to the beneficiary or beneficiaries thereof either for the fund or for a continuous income therefrom or interest thereon, beyond what may be secured through fidelity and diligence; and all necessary expenses arising from the care or administration of any trust shall be charged to the same.

¶ 326. When any such donation, bequest, grant, or trust is made to this Board, or to the Church, it shall

be the duty of the Pastor within the bounds of whose Charge it occurs to give an early notice thereof to the Board, which shall proceed without delay to take possession of the same, according to the provisions of its Charter.

¶ 327. The Board shall make a faithful report of its doings, and of the funds and property on hand, to each quadrennial session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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### III. The Permanent Fund.

¶ 328. There shall be a Fund known as "The Permanent Fund," to be held by the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the principal of which shall be intact forever, and which shall be invested by said Trustees on first-class securities, and at as favorable rates as can be legally secured.

¶ 329. It shall be the duty of all our Ministers to obtain, as far as practicable, contributions to said Fund, by donations, bequests, and otherwise.

¶ 330. The interest accumulating from said Fund shall be subject to the order of the General Conference for the following purposes: 1. To pay the expenses of the General Conference. 2. To pay the expenses of Delegations appointed by the General Conference to Corresponding Bodies. 3. To make up any deficiencies in the salaries of the Bishops. 4. To relieve the necessities of the Superannuated and Worn-out Ministers, and the widows and children of those who have died in the work.

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**PART VII.**

**EDUCATIONAL AND BENEVOLENT  
INSTITUTIONS.**



- I. EDUCATION.
- II. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.
- III. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.
- IV. MISSIONARY WORK.
- V. CHURCH EXTENSION.
- VI. FREEDMEN'S AID AND SOUTHERN EDUCATION SOCIETY.
- VII. BOOK CONCERN.

## CHAPTER I.

## EDUCATION.

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I. The Board of Education.

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¶ 331. For the promotion of the educational work of the Church there shall be a Board, known as the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as now duly incorporated according to the laws of the State of New York, shall be recognized as said Board of Education until changed by the General Conference. And the said Board shall manage its affairs and property in such manner as shall not be inconsistent with its charter or the rules and regulations of said General Conference.

¶ 332. The Corresponding Secretary shall be elected by the General Conference. He shall, under the provisions of the Discipline and the direction of the Board, conduct the correspondence, and shall in all his official conduct be subject to the authority and control of the Board, by whom his salary shall be fixed and paid. His time shall be employed in conducting the affairs of the Board and, under its direction, in promoting its general interests by traveling or otherwise.

Any vacancy in this office, caused by death, resignation, or otherwise, shall be filled by the Board, until the Bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

¶ 333, § 1. No institution of learning shall be recognized by the Board of Education as under the auspices

of the Methodist Episcopal Church, be inserted in its classified list of such institutions, or receive aid from its connectional educational funds, unless it first have the approval of the Annual Conference within whose bounds it is located, and of the Conferences associated in its management, and unless also (if it is of Collegiate grade, and established after July, 1896), it shall have secured the approval of the Board of Education before its establishment.

§ 2. In the case of any institution hereafter established contrary to the provisions in § 1 of this paragraph, the Board of Education, on formal complaint made to it by any Annual Conference interested, shall fix a time and place for hearing the authorities of the said institution, and other institutions affected thereby, and shall advise such adjustment of the relation between them as shall seem wise and proper under the circumstances.

§ 3. The Board of Education shall recognize as auxiliaries such Educational Societies as now exist, or may hereafter be created, provided such societies prosecute their work in harmony with the principles and methods of the Board of Education.

¶ 334, § 1. The Board of Education shall receive, invest, and disburse the fund known as the "Sunday School Children's Fund" and such other funds as are now in its hands or may be specially committed to it for educational purposes. ¶ 337, § 2:

§ 2. The Board of Education shall administer the Children's Fund to assist worthy young people, Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in obtaining a more advanced education. The aid shall be granted only in the form of loans, but the Board shall have the authority to cancel said loans, in part or in whole, for protracted ill health, or for five years' actual missionary service.

## II. Educational Institutions.

¶ 335, § 1. The educational institutions under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be classified as follows:

1. Primary Schools.
2. Secondary Schools.
3. Colleges.
4. Universities.
5. Schools of Theology.

§ 2. In mission fields and other localities where inadequate provision has been made for elementary instruction, primary schools may be established.

§ 3. Wherever the conditions are favorable, each Conference may have under its direct supervision one or more secondary schools known as academies, seminaries, or collegiate institutes.

§ 4. Conferences shall not approve the multiplication of colleges or universities beyond the needs of the people or their ability to equip and sustain them.

§ 5. Theological schools, whose professors are nominated or confirmed by the Bishops, exist for the benefit of the whole Church. It is the duty of the Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Pastors to direct the attention of our young people to our literary institutions, and of the candidates for our Ministry, having proper qualifications, to our theological seminaries.

§ 6. The Board of Education shall publish in its annual reports a list of all the educational institutions under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, classifying the same according to the provisions contained in ¶¶ 335, 336.



### III. University Senate.

¶ 336, § 1. There shall be a University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church, authorized by the General Conference and appointed quadrennially by the Board of Bishops, composed of practical educators, one from each General Conference District and one at large, who shall determine the minimum equivalent of academic work in our Church institutions for graduation to the Baccalaureate degree. The Curricula thus determined shall provide for the historical and literary study of the Bible in the vernacular.

§ 2. The Senate shall at least quadrennially report to the Board of Education its work; and that Board shall determine the institutions which meet these requirements, and such institutions shall be designated as Colleges in the official lists of the educational institutions of the Church.

### IV. Duties of Pastors and Presiding Elders.

¶ 337, § 1. It shall be the duty of every Pastor to take one public collection annually in each Society in aid of the work of education. The money so received shall be paid over to such auxiliary of the Board of Education, or institution of learning, as the Annual Conference may direct, or, in the absence of Annual Conference direction, to the treasury of the Parent Board.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of every Pastor to cause every Sunday School under his charge to observe the second Sunday in June, or such other Sunday as may be more convenient, as Children's Day, and upon said day, as part of the service, he shall take a collection to be devoted to the Sunday School Children's Fund. The Pastor

shall forward the collection aforesaid directly to the Secretary of the Board of Education, and report the same to his Annual Conference under the head of "Children's Fund;" and all educational money, except the Children's Fund, shall be reported to the Annual Conference under the head of "Public Educational Collection."

§ 3. The Treasurer of each Annual Conference at the close of each Conference session shall report to the Board of Education the amount of all moneys raised for educational purposes and the objects to which they have been applied.

¶ 338, § 1. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder every year to bring the subject of education before the last Quarterly Conference of each Charge within his District, and said Conference shall appoint a Committee on Education consisting of not less than three nor more than seven persons, of which Committee the Pastor shall be Chairman. This Committee shall aid the Pastor in canvassing the Charge for the purpose of stimulating interest in the higher education of our youth, by distributing the catalogues and circulars of the secondary schools, colleges, universities, and theological institutions of the Church, and seeking to secure the attendance of our young people at these institutions.

§ 2. The Presiding Elder every year at the last Quarterly Conference in each Charge shall inquire:

1. Has the Sermon on Education been preached during the year, when, and by whom?
2. Has the canvass for education been made, and the collection for education been taken? Has Children's Day been observed, and have its collections been taken as required by the Discipline, and how much was contributed for each of these purposes?

## ¶ 339. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

3. What students in the Charge are attending any of the secondary schools, colleges, universities, or theological schools of the Church?

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## CHAPTER II.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

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#### I. The Epworth League.

¶ 339. For the purpose of promoting intelligent and vital piety among the young people of our Churches and Congregations, and of training them in works of mercy and help, there shall be an organization under the authority of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and governed by the following Constitution:

#### CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. Name.—The title of this organization shall be "The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

ARTICLE 2. Object.—The object of the League is to promote intelligent and vital piety in the young Members and friends of the Church, to aid them in the attainment of purity of heart and constant growth in grace, and to train them in works of mercy and help.

ARTICLE 3. Organization.—With a view to carry out the objects of the League the Chapters and such other Young People's Societies as may be approved by the Quarterly Conferences shall be organized into Presiding Elders' District Leagues, and may also be formed into General Conference District Leagues. Other groupings may be arranged for the advantage of the work, such

as Annual Conference Leagues, State Leagues, City Leagues, etc. The Chapter shall be under the control of the Quarterly Conference and Pastor. Any young People's Society may become an affiliated Chapter of the Epworth League; *provided*, it adopt the aims of the League, that its President and Officers and general plans of work be approved by the Pastor and Official Board or Quarterly Conference, and that it be enrolled at the Central Office.\*

ARTICLE 4. Government.—The management of the League shall be vested in the Board of Control, to consist (1) of fifteen members appointed by the Bishops, one of whom shall be a Bishop, who shall be President of the Epworth League and of the Board of Control; (2) and of one member from each General Conference District to be chosen, at the General Conference, by the Delegates of the Annual and Electoral Conferences comprised in the several General Conference Districts respectively. The Board of Control shall meet twice in each quadrennium.

ARTICLE 5. Officers.—The officers of the League shall be a President, four Vice Presidents—two of whom at least shall be laymen—a General Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall constitute the General League Cabinet, of which also the Editor of the *Epworth Herald* and the German Assistant Secretary shall be members *ex officio*. The President shall be chosen as hereinbefore provided. The Vice Presidents shall be chosen by the Board of Control from its own members. The General Secretary shall be elected by the Board of Control, and shall be the executive officer of the League. He shall have charge of all correspondence, and shall keep the records

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\* It is not hereby intended to disturb the present status of other Young People's Societies now organized in the Methodist Episcopal Church which are under control of the Pastor and Quarterly Conference.



¶ 339. YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

of the League. He shall also be Editor of Epworth League publications other than the *Epworth Herald*. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Control. The Editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be elected by the General Conference. All these officers shall be elected quadrennially, and shall hold office until their successors are chosen. The duties of the General Secretary and the Editor of the *Epworth Herald* shall be performed under the direction of the Board of Control; and the Cabinet shall act for the Board of Control *ad interim*. Vacancies in any of the above named positions except the Presidency and the Editorship of the *Herald* shall be filled by the Cabinet, subject to the approval of the Board of Control.

ARTICLE 6. German Assistant Secretary.—The Editor of the *Haus und Herd* is constituted the German Assistant Secretary of the Epworth League, and thereby a member of the General League Cabinet.

ARTICLE 7. Finances.—The salaries of the Editor of the *Epworth Herald* and of the General Secretary shall be fixed by the Book Committee. All other expenses of the Board of Control shall be met through means which it shall devise. No collection shall be taken by the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church except for League purposes.

ARTICLE 8. Central Office.—The Central Office of the Epworth League shall be in Chicago, Ill.

ARTICLE 9. Local Constitution.—The Constitution for Local Chapters shall be in charge of the Board of Control; *provided*, however, that no enactment shall be made which shall in any manner conflict with this General Constitution.

ARTICLE 10. By-Laws.—The Board of Control shall have power to enact such By-laws for its own government as will not conflict with this Constitution.

ARTICLE 11. Amendments.—This Constitution shall be altered or amended only by the General Conference.

## II. Duties of Presiding Elders and Pastors.

¶ 340. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Elders when holding District or Quarterly Conferences to inquire into the condition of Epworth League Chapters and such other Young People's Societies as may be under the control of the Quarterly and District Conferences, and to ascertain whether they are conducting their affairs in harmony with the purpose and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 341. It shall be the duty of Pastors to organize, if possible, and to maintain, if practicable, Chapters of the Epworth League.

## III. Duties of the President of a Chapter.

¶ 342. The President of an Epworth League Chapter must be a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and shall be elected by the Chapter and confirmed by the Quarterly Conference, of which body he shall then become a member if approved by it for membership therein. It shall be his duty to present to the Quarterly Conference a report of his Chapter, together with such other information as the Conference may require and he may be able to give.

## CHAPTER III. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

For the moral and religious instruction of our children, and for the promotion of Bible knowledge among all our people let the following order be observed:

¶ 343, § 1. SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

**I. Sunday School Board.**

¶ 343, § 1. Every Sunday School of the Methodist Episcopal Church shall be under the supervision of a Sunday School Board, and shall be auxiliary to the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

§ 2. The Sunday School Board shall consist of the Pastor, who shall be *ex officio* Chairman, the Sunday School Committee appointed by the Quarterly Conference, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendents, the Secretaries, the Treasurer, the Librarians, and the Teachers of the School. In case of the withdrawal of Officers or Teachers from the School, they shall cease to be members of the Board.

§ 3. It shall be the duty of the Sunday School Board, whenever practicable, to organize our schools into Temperance Societies, under such rules and regulations as the Board may prescribe, the duty of which Societies shall be to see that temperance instruction is imparted to the School, and secure, so far as possible, the pledging of its members to total abstinence.

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**II. Officers and Teachers.**

¶ 344, § 1. The Superintendent shall be nominated annually by the Sunday School Board, and confirmed by the Quarterly Conference at its next session after such nomination: and in case of a vacancy the Pastor shall superintend or secure the superintending of the School until such time as a Superintendent nominated by the Sunday School Board shall be confirmed by the Quarterly Conference.

§ 2. The other officers of the School shall be elected by the Sunday School Board.

§ 3. The Teachers of the School shall be nominated by the Superintendent, with the concurrence of the Pastor, and elected by the Board.

§ 4. The place of any Officer or Teacher habitually neglecting his or her duty, or being guilty of improper conduct, may be declared vacant by a vote of two thirds of the Board present at any regular or special meeting.

§ 5. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to report to each Quarterly Conference:

1. Name of Sunday School.
2. Number of Officers and Teachers.
3. Number of Scholars in all grades.
4. Number of Scholars in Home Department.
5. Average attendance.
6. Number of Officers and Teachers Members of the Church or Probationers.
7. Number of Scholars (whether attendants or members of Home Department) Members of the Church or Probationers.
8. Number of members of the Sunday School converted during the quarter.
9. Current expenses for the quarter.

### III. Duties of Presiding Elders.

¶ 345. It shall be the duty of the Presiding Elder to bring the subject of Sunday Schools before the last Quarterly Conference of each year; and said Quarterly Conference shall appoint a Committee of Members of our Church of not less than three nor more than nine for each Sunday School in the Charge, to be called the Committee on Sunday Schools, whose duty it shall be to aid the Pastor and the Officers of the Sunday Schools in procuring suitable Teachers, in promoting in all proper



ways the attendance of children and adults on our Sunday Schools and at our regular Public Worship, and in raising money to meet the expenses of the Sunday Schools of the Charge. Of this Committee the Pastor shall be Chairman.

## VI. Duties of Pastors.

¶ 346. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, aided by the Superintendent and the Committee on Sunday Schools, to decide as to what books and other publications shall be used in the Sunday Schools.

¶ 347. It shall be the special duty of the Pastor, with the aid of the other Preachers and the Committee on Sunday Schools, to form Sunday Schools in all our Congregations where ten persons can be collected for that purpose, which Schools shall be auxiliary to the Sunday School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church; to engage the cooperation of as many of our Members as they can; to visit the Schools as often as practicable; to preach on the subject of Sunday Schools and the religious instruction of children in each Congregation at least once in six months; to form classes, wherever they can, for the instruction of the larger children, youth, and adults, in the word of God; and where they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

¶ 348, § 1. It shall be the duty of our Ministers to enforce faithfully upon parents and Sunday School Teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion; to see that our Catechisms be used as extensively as possible in our Sunday Schools and families; and to preach to the children, and catechise them publicly in the Sunday

Schools and at public meetings appointed for that purpose.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of every Minister in his pastoral visits to pay special attention to the children; to speak to them personally and kindly on the subject of experimental and practical godliness, according to their capacity; to pray earnestly for them; and diligently instruct and exhort all parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in Baptism as early as convenient.

¶ 349. Each Pastor shall lay before the Quarterly Conference, to be entered on its Journal, the number and state of the Sunday Schools in his Charge, and the extent to which he has preached to the children and catechised them, and shall make the required report on Sunday Schools to his Annual Conference.

## CHAPTER IV.

### MISSIONARY WORK.

#### THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

##### I. Incorporation and Officers.

¶ 350. For the better prosecution of Missionary work in the United States and in foreign countries, there shall be a Missionary Society, duly incorporated according to law, and having its office in the city of New York, said Society being subject to such rules and regulations as the General Conference may from time to time prescribe.

NOTE.—For Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, etc., etc., see Annual Report of Missionary Society.

¶ 351. The Board of Managers of the Missionary So-

ciety shall have power to suspend a Corresponding Secretary, or Treasurer, or Manager, for cause to them sufficient; and a time shall be fixed by the Board, at as early a day as practicable, for the investigation of the official conduct of said Secretary, Treasurer, or Manager, due notice of which shall be given by them to the Bishops, who shall select one of their number to be present and preside at the investigation, which shall be before the fourteen members of the General Missionary Committee elected from the Districts by the General Conference, two thirds of whom may remove said Secretary, Treasurer, or Manager from office in the interval of the General Conference.

¶ 352. In case a vacancy exists in the office of Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer, by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Bishops shall have power to fill the vacancy; and until they do so, the Board of Managers shall have power to provide for the duties of the office.

¶ 353. It shall be the duty of the General Missionary Committee to revise annually the list of Managers, and in case of inattention of any Manager to the duties of the office it may declare his seat vacant.

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## II. Missions, Foreign and Home.

¶ 354. When a Mission is established in a foreign country, or in the United States and Territories outside of Annual Conferences, the Bishop having Episcopal Supervision of the same shall appoint a Member of the Mission as Superintendent, who may also be the Presiding Elder of a District. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent, in the absence of a Bishop, to preside at the Annual Meeting of the Mission, to arrange the

work, and take general supervision of the entire Mission, and to represent the state of the Mission and its needs to the Bishop having charge, and to the Corresponding Secretaries.

¶ 355. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent annually to call together all the Members of the Mission, and also the native Preachers employed as Supplies or Helpers in the Mission, for the purpose of holding an Annual Meeting; said Meeting possessing, in all ecclesiastical matters, the functions and privileges of a District Conference; and also transacting such other business as may be assigned by the Board, or grow out of the local interests of the work.

¶ 356. But in Missions in the United States and Territories, the power to license and to try Local Preachers, and to renew the Licenses of Local Preachers and Exhorters, shall remain with the respective Quarterly Conferences; and Local Preachers tried and convicted shall have their Appeal to the Annual Meeting of the Mission.

¶ 357. The Ministerial Members of the General Missionary Committee shall constitute a Judicial Conference to hear Appeals of Local Preachers convicted at an Annual Meeting of a foreign Mission, said Judicial Conference to be presided over by a Bishop.

¶ 358. When a Mission in a foreign country shall be organized into an Annual Conference, the administration of the Missionary Society is not thereby disturbed, but shall be continued as in the case of other foreign Missions.

¶ 359. Wherever Methodist Churches are organized in territory outside of an Annual Conference, or of any regular Mission of our Church, such work may be attached to such home Conference as the said Churches



may elect, with the concurrence of the Bishop having charge of said Conference, and may be constituted a Presiding Elder's District.

### III. The Annual Conference and Missions.

¶ 360. It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to form within its bounds a Conference Missionary Society, which shall appoint its own officers, fix the terms of membership, and otherwise regulate its own administration. But it shall pay all its funds into the treasury of the Parent Society. It shall appoint a Secretary for each Presiding Elder's District, whose duty it shall be to cooperate with the Presiding Elder in planning and holding District missionary meetings and disseminating missionary literature, and to inform the Corresponding Secretaries from time to time of the state of the work in the District.

¶ 361. Any Annual Conference may, at its option, by a vote of two thirds of its Members, assume the responsibility of supporting such Missions, already established within its own limits, as have hitherto been reported under the head of "Missions in the Destitute Portions of the Regular Work," and such other Missions as may be established therein; and for this purpose it shall be at liberty to organize a Conference Domestic Missionary Society, with branches; *provided*, such organization shall not interfere with the collections for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as required by the Discipline; *provided*, also, that in case more funds shall be raised for such Missions than are needed, the surplus shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church at New York, to be appropriated

to such Mission or Missions under the care of the Society as may be designated by such Conference.

¶ **362.** It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference within the bounds of the United States, where Missions have been or are to be established, to appoint a Standing Committee, which shall keep a record of its doings, and report the same to the Conference, whose duty it shall be, with the concurrence of the President of the Conference, to make an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of each Mission and Mission School, in full, or supplementary to the amount raised by the Society or Congregation thus aided; for which amount the President of the Conference for the time being shall draw on the Treasurer of the Society in quarterly installments.

¶ **363.** It shall be the duty of each Annual Conference to examine strictly into the state of the Domestic Missions within its bounds, and to allow none to remain on the list of its Missions which, in the judgment of the Conference, is able to support itself.

¶ **364.** Each Annual Conference shall report through its Secretary, annually, to the Secretaries of the Missionary Society at New York, the name of each District and Charge, within its bounds, sustained in whole or in part by said Conference as a Mission, together with the amount of missionary money appropriated to such for the year, and also the number of years that each Mission has received assistance from the missionary treasury, and whether consecutively or otherwise.

¶ **365.** The President of the Conference, at each session, shall appoint one of its Members, with an alternate, to preach a missionary sermon during its next succeeding session, at such time and place as the officers of the Conference Missionary Society shall designate; and said

officers shall cause timely notice of said sermon to be published abroad.

¶ 366. When the character of the Presiding Elder is under examination, the Bishop shall ask him whether the provisions of the Discipline for the support of Missions have been carried out in his District; and when the character of a Pastor is examined, he shall inquire of him what amount has been raised on his Charge for Missions.

#### IV. Duties of Presiding Elders.

¶ 367. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the subject of our Missions before the Quarterly Conference of each Charge within his District at the last Quarterly Conference in each year; and said Conference shall proceed to appoint a Committee of not less than three nor more than nine, of which the Pastor shall be Chairman, to be called the Committee on Missions, whose duty it shall be to aid the Pastor in carrying into effect the Disciplinary measures for the support of our Missions.

¶ 368. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to see that the provisions of this section are faithfully executed in his District; and in order thereto, he shall inquire at each session of the Quarterly Conference what has been done by the Mission Committee toward raising funds for the support of Missions during the preceding quarter, and particularly whether the Sunday Schools have been organized into Missionary Societies.

#### V. Duties of Pastors.

¶ 369. The support of Missions is committed to the Churches, Congregations, and Societies as such.

¶ 370. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, aided by the Committee on Missions, to provide for the diffusion of missionary intelligence among the Members of the Church and Congregation.

¶ 371. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, aided by the Committee on Missions, to institute a monthly missionary prayer meeting or lecture in each Society, or Church and Congregation, wherever practicable, for the purpose of imploring the Divine blessing on Missions, for the diffusion of missionary intelligence, and to afford an opportunity for voluntary offerings to the missionary cause.

¶ 372. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, aided by the Committee on Missions, to appoint Missionary Collectors, and furnish them with suitable books and instructions, that they may call on each Member of the Society, or Church and Congregation, and on other persons, at their discretion, for his or her annual, semi-annual, quarterly, monthly, or weekly contribution for the support of Missions. Said Collectors shall make monthly returns, unless otherwise instructed by the Committee, to the Pastor, or to the Missionary Treasurer of the Church, if there be such Treasurer appointed by the Committee on Missions. Such returns shall be entered in a book, which the Committee shall provide, together with collections and contributions received from other sources. Such entries shall set forth the name of each Collector, the real or assumed names of the contributors, and the amount contributed by each.

¶ 373. Each Pastor shall report at Conference to the Executive Committee or to the Board of Managers of the Conference Missionary Society, a plain transcript of the record of the returns provided for in ¶ 372, including the name of each Collector in his Charge, and the name,



real or assumed, of each contributor to each Collector, that they may be arranged by Districts and by Charges for publication in the annual report of the Conference Missionary Society, together with the contributions and collections received from other sources, unless the Conference shall by vote declare such transcript returns and such publication unadvisable.

¶ 374. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, with the aid of the Committee on Missions, to present once in the year to each Congregation the cause of Missions, and to ask public collections and contributions for the support of the same. The manner of asking and taking such collections and contributions shall be at the discretion of the Pastor and the Committee on Missions, with this injunction, that the Pastor shall preach, or cause to be preached on the occasion, one or more sermons, and with the recommendation that one whole Sabbath day be given to the cause on this annual presentation of Missions in our principal Churches and Congregations.

¶ 375. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to see that each Sunday School in our Churches and Congregations is organized into a Missionary Society, as prescribed in ¶ 53 of the Appendix to the Discipline. A collection shall be taken for Missions in each Sunday School, as far as practicable, at least once a month; and all sums of money so collected shall be paid into the Treasury of the Missionary Society, and the missionary contributions of the Sunday Schools shall be reported in a separate column in the benevolent contributions of the Annual and General Minutes. It shall be the duty of the Sunday School Missionary Society to provide, with the consent of the Sunday School Board, for brief missionary exercises in the Sunday School on the day that the monthly missionary collection is taken, to cause suitable

literature to be distributed in the Sunday School, and to arrange for occasional missionary concerts.

**WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**

¶ 376. For the more successful prosecution of the Missionary work of the Church among women in foreign lands, there shall be an organization known as the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be governed and regulated by its Constitution, which may be altered or amended by the General Conference as the necessities of the work may require.

§ 1. This Society shall work in harmony with, and under the supervision of, the authorities of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The appointment, recall, and remuneration of Missionaries, and the designation of their fields of labor, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Managers of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and annual appropriations to Mission fields shall be submitted for revision and approval to the General Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

§ 2. All Missionaries sent out by this Society shall labor under the direction of the particular Conferences or Missions of the Church in which they may be severally employed. They shall be annually appointed by the President of the Conference or Mission, and shall be subject to the same rules of removal that govern the other Missionaries.

§ 3. All the work of the Woman's Society in foreign lands shall be under the direction of the Conferences or Missions, and their Committees, in exactly the same

¶ 376, § 4. MISSIONARY WORK.

manner as the work of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Superintendent or Presiding Elder having the same relation to the work and the person in charge of it that he would have were it a work in the charge of any Member of the Conference or Mission.

§ 4. The funds of the Society shall not be raised by collections or subscriptions taken during any of our regular Church services, nor in any Sunday School, but shall be raised by such methods as the Constitution of the Society shall provide, none of which shall interfere with the contributions of our people and Sunday Schools for the treasury of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and the amount so collected shall be reported by the Pastor to the Annual Conference, and be entered in a column among the Benevolent Collections in the Annual and General Minutes.

§ 5. The provisions of § 4 of this paragraph (¶ 376) shall not be so interpreted as to prevent the Women from taking collections in meetings convened in the interests of their Societies; nor from securing memberships and life-memberships in audiences where their work is represented; nor from holding festivals or arranging lectures in the interests of their work.

**WOMAN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**

¶ 377. There shall be an organization known as the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which Society shall have authority to collect and disburse money, employ Missionaries, and do work among the neglected populations in the home field under the same Disciplinary rules and regulations as those which apply to the Woman's Foreign Missionary

society, except the requirements contained in §§ 2 and 3 of ¶ 376.

#### **CITY EVANGELIZATION UNION.**

¶ 378. The City Evangelization Union shall be composed of representatives of all the local organizations, by whatever name known, in the cities of the United States, working for city evangelization under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

This Union has for its sole aim to bring into fraternally intimate and mutually helpful relations all such local organizations. To this end we advise that wherever practicable, and certainly in all towns and cities having five or more charges, local organizations be formed for the purpose of affording financial aid to needy Churches, organizing new Church enterprises, and conducting Mission work among the religiously destitute.

And we further advise that all such organizations, allied to this Union, make yearly reports to the Annual Conferences within the bounds of which they are severally situated, with the names of the officers and a statement of the condition and progress of the work and the receipts and expenditures of each year. And that the City Evangelization Union make a like report to each General Conference for the quadrennium next preceding its meeting, containing a summary of the condition and progress of the work and of the receipts and expenditures of all the organizations federated with the Union. As the need for such systematic and aggressive effort to bring the Gospel to the teeming populations of our great cities is urgent and increasing, this movement is heartily commended to all our Members. We earnestly recommend that the Annual Conferences take such friendly cognizance of the organizations within their



bounds as will promote their efficiency and facilitate their work, and it is especially recommended that they provide for publishing in their Minutes the reports of contributions in aid of their work.

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## CHAPTER V.

### CHURCH EXTENSION.

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#### I. Parent Board.

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¶ 379. There shall be a Board of Church Extension, consisting of thirty-two Ministers and thirty-two Laymen, to be chosen by the General Conference, and to be duly incorporated according to law, with such powers and prerogatives as may be needful to the object of its appointment; said Board to be subject to the control of the General Conference. The Bishops shall be *ex officio* members of the Board.

¶ 380. The term of service of the members of the Board shall begin on the second Wednesday in June following their appointment, and continue during the ensuing four years, and until their successors shall be duly chosen and have entered upon their duties, unless otherwise ordered by the General Conference. If a vacancy should occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, during the interval between the sessions of the General Committee, the Board shall have power to fill the vacancy.

¶ 381. The Officers of the Board shall be a President, five Vice Presidents, two Corresponding Secretaries, with such Assistant Corresponding Secretaries as the

General Committee of Church Extension may authorize and appoint, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer, all of whom, except the Corresponding Secretaries and Assistant Corresponding Secretaries, shall be elected by the Board at the first regular meeting in November of each year.

¶ 382. The Corresponding Secretaries shall be appointed by the General Conference. They shall, under the provisions of the Discipline and the directions of the General Committee and of the Board, conduct its correspondence, and shall, in all their official conduct, be subject to the authority and control of the Board, by whom their salaries shall be fixed and paid. They shall be exclusively employed in conducting the affairs of the Board, and, under its direction, in promoting its general interest, by traveling or otherwise. Should a vacancy occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the duties of the office until the Bishops, or a majority of them, shall fill the vacancy.

¶ 383. An Assistant Corresponding Secretary, or more than one, may be appointed at any time by the General Committee, on the nomination of the Bishops; which Secretary or Secretaries shall receive such salary, and render such service, as the Board may determine.

¶ 384. The Board shall hold its meetings in the city of Philadelphia. It shall have power to make By-laws for the regulation of its own proceedings, not in conflict with the Charter, the Discipline, or the directions of the General Committee; to provide for and administer a Loan Fund; to establish and administer an Annuity Fund, either in connection with, or separate from, the Loan Fund, as it may deem wise; to take and hold in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church any real or per-

sonal property; to dispose of the same for the use and benefit of the Church, and generally to do all and singular the matters and things which shall be necessary and lawful in the execution of its trusts; *provided*, however, that all amounts received on Loan Fund shall be used only for loans on adequate security; and *provided*, further, that the aggregate amount of interest and annuities payable shall never be allowed to exceed the aggregate amount of interest receivable; and *provided*, also, that an equitable proportion of the expenses of administration of the business of the Board shall be charged to and defrayed out of the interest received on the loans made by the Board from the Loan Fund and the Annuity Fund respectively.

¶ 385. The Board shall also have authority to provide and recommend a uniform plan for the organization of local Boards of Church Extension in large cities, under such local administration as may be deemed advisable; but in no case shall such local organizations interfere with the general work of the Board.

¶ 386. The Board shall also have authority, by constituting and procuring a special incorporation, or otherwise, to take such measures as it may deem wise and necessary to procure the insurance of Churches and other Church property against loss by fire; and the profits arising therefrom, if any, after the accumulation of a sufficient reserve fund, shall be devoted to the purposes of the Board.

¶ 387. The Board shall also have authority, with the concurrence of the General Committee, to make such provisions as it may deem wise for honorary membership in the Parent and Conference Boards of Church Extension, and in the General Committee.

¶ 388. At all meetings of the Board thirteen members



shall constitute a quorum. The Minutes of each meeting shall be signed by the Secretary thereof.

¶ 389. The Board shall publish quarterly, or oftener, full information concerning its work; and shall submit to the General Conference a report of its proceedings for the preceding four years, and of the state of the funds.

## II. Conference Boards.

¶ 390. Each Annual Conference shall, on the nomination of the Presiding Bishop, appoint a Conference Board of Church Extension, composed of equal numbers of Ministers and Laymen, consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and not less than two nor more than six additional members, so located that a quorum thereof may be convened at any time. The Presiding Elders shall be *ex officio* members of the Conference Board, and shall also be a Standing Committee on apportioning amounts asked of the Conference. The Secretary of the Conference shall notify the Corresponding Secretaries of the Parent Board of the name and post office address of each member of the Conference Board soon after the adjournment of the Conference.

¶ 391. The Conference Board shall be auxiliary to the Parent Board, and shall, under its direction, have charge of all the interests and work of Church Extension within the Conference. The Presiding Elders shall, as a Committee on Apportionments, distribute for collection the amount asked of the Conference among the several Districts and Pastoral Charges, with due regard to their circumstances and ability, and notify each Pastor and Quarterly Conference early in the year of the amount of their apportionment, and report the result to the Annual Conference.



¶ 392. The Treasurer of the Conference Board shall, as early as practicable, at least once in every three months, remit all funds coming into his hands to the Treasurer of the Parent Board.

¶ 393. If for any reason such Conference Board cannot be constituted or act, the Bishop having charge, or a Committee by him appointed, may perform any of the duties required in this section.

### III. General Committee.

¶ 394. There shall be a General Committee of Church Extension, composed as follows: 1. Of the General Superintendents, one of whom, as they may from time to time determine, shall be Chairman. 2. Of the Corresponding Secretaries and Assistant Corresponding Secretaries, the Treasurer, and the Recording Secretary of the Board, which Secretary shall also be *ex officio* Secretary of the General Committee. 3. Of one representative from each General Conference District (¶ 70), elected by the General Conference on the nomination of the Delegates of each District respectively. 4. Of an equal number of representatives appointed by the Board.

¶ 395. It shall be the duty of this Committee to meet annually, in such place and on such day in the month of November as shall be appointed by the Corresponding Secretaries, to determine: 1. What amount each Conference shall be asked to raise by collections for the use of the Board during the ensuing year; 2. What amount may be donated and loaned within each Conference during the same period; and, 3. What amount may be applied to general and special purposes not included in the above.

¶ 396. The General Committee shall also have authority to counsel and direct the Board in the general administration of the trust committed to its care. It shall also have authority to revise the list of members of the Board, and for inattention to the duties of the office, or for other cause, to declare the seat of any member vacant, and to fill any existing vacancy on the Board.

¶ 397. If a vacancy should occur in the Committee by death, resignation, removal from the District, or otherwise, the Bishop having charge of the Conference within which such vacancy occurs shall fill it.

¶ 398. Expenses incurred by the Committee in the discharge of its duties may be paid by the Treasurer of the Board.

#### IV. Applications for Aid.

¶ 399. All applications for aid shall be made in accordance with blank forms to be furnished by the Parent Board, and shall set forth, 1. The number of Church Members, of Sunday School children, and of the Congregation to be accommodated, the population of the place, and prospects of growth. 2. The legal incorporation of the Church or Board of Trustees. 3. The location, size, present and prospective value of the site, the validity of the title thereto, and whether held in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church. 4. A description of the building to which aid, if granted, will be applied; and, if required, a copy of the plans and specifications of the architect shall be submitted, and, if deemed necessary by the Parent or Conference Board, modified as may be suggested. 5. The estimated and probable cost when completed. 6. The available resources and amount of reliable subscriptions; and that those immediately interested have done or are doing all that could be

reasonably expected. 7. What amount of debt, if any, may be allowed to remain against the property, and how soon the Trustees or others will agree to remove it. 8. Is the property insured? Will it be? In what company? To what amount? 9. Whether the Church, if aided, will probably become self-supporting, and how soon, and to what extent it may be expected to aid in the general work of the Church. 10. Any additional facts and circumstances that will assist the Board to a proper decision on the application.

¶ 400. Every such application for aid shall be first submitted to the Conference Board of Church Extension, and said Board shall certify its action thereon to the Parent Board; and aid shall be granted only by the concurrent action of both the Conference Board and of the Parent Board, and, except in cases of great emergency, within the amount authorized by the General Committee; *provided*, however, that for the procurement of property in Mission territory the Parent Board may appropriate funds specially authorized by the General Committee without such application or recommendation by a Conference Board; but in all such cases the title to such property should vest in the Board of Church Extension.

#### V. Duties of Presiding Elders and Pastors.

¶ 401. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the subject of Church Extension before the Quarterly Conference of each Charge within his District at the last Quarterly Conference in each year; and said Quarterly Conference shall appoint a Committee of not less than three nor more than five, of which the Pastor shall be Chairman, to be called the Committee on Church Extension, whose duty it shall be to aid the

Pastor in carrying into effect the provisions of the Discipline and plans of the Boards for the support of this cause, and in securing at least the amount asked of the Circuit or Station for its aid; and the Presiding Elder shall inquire, in the Third Quarterly Conference of each year, what has been done for this cause, and whether the amount asked has been received; and if not, he shall urgently request the Pastor and the Quarterly Conference to take such measures as will secure the amount before the close of the year.

¶ 402. It shall be the duty of the Pastor, aided by the Committee on Church Extension, to provide for the diffusion of information concerning the work and wants of the Board of Church Extension; he shall preach, or cause to be preached, a sermon on this subject in each Congregation in every year, and solicit contributions from each, endeavoring to secure at least the amount asked as above provided; and he shall, at each Conference, report the amount asked and the amount received for Church Extension. He shall also invite special contributions and bequests to the Loan Fund.

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## CHAPTER VI.

### FREEDMEN'S AID AND SOUTHERN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

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#### I. General Object.

¶ 403. The work of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society shall be the establishment and maintenance of institutions for Christian education in the Southern States among both colored and white



people. The instruction in these institutions shall include such literary, professional, and industrial courses of study as will tend to the development of the highest Christian character. The location of these institutions shall be with reference to the formation of an educational system with collegiate centers and cooperative preparatory academies, so that with the greatest economy the needs of the people will be most fully met. The schools shall be made self-supporting as rapidly as the financial condition of the people will admit. Special efforts shall be made to secure permanent endowments for the various institutions, and the control of said schools by local Boards of Trustees shall be in proportion to their local support.

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## II. Board of Managers.

¶ 404. There shall be a Board of Managers consisting of eighteen Ministers and twelve Laymen, to be elected quadrennially by the General Conference, and the term of service of the members of this Board shall begin on the second Wednesday in June following their appointment, and continue during the ensuing four years and until their successors shall be chosen and have entered upon their duties. Said Board of Managers being duly incorporated according to law, and having such powers and prerogatives as are needful for conducting the work of the Society, except such authority as is given to the General Committee, shall be subject to the control of the General Conference. Thirteen members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business except the appropriation of funds authorized by the General Committee, and the purchase or sale of real estate, in which cases a majority of the

members shall be a quorum. The Board shall make a quadrennial report of its work to the General Conference, and shall publish quarterly or oftener full information concerning its work.

### III. Officers.

¶ 405, § 1. The Officers of this Board shall be a President, three Vice Presidents, two Corresponding Secretaries, such Assistant Secretaries as the General Committee may appoint; a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Assistant Treasurer, all of whom except the Corresponding Secretaries and the Assistant Secretaries shall be elected by the Board at its annual meeting each year.

§ 2. The Corresponding Secretaries shall be elected by the General Conference, and shall, under the provision of the Discipline and the direction of the General Committee and of the Board of Managers, conduct the correspondence, and shall be in all official acts subject to the authority and control of the Board, by whom their salaries shall be fixed and paid. Their time shall be devoted to the affairs of the Society under the direction of the Board in promoting its interest by traveling at large through the Church, conducting the office work, superintending the institutions of learning under the care of the Society, or otherwise. Any vacancy by death, resignation, or otherwise shall be filled by the Board, until the Bishops or a majority of them shall fill the vacancy. One or more Assistant Corresponding Secretaries or Field Agents may be appointed at any time by the General Committee, and they shall receive such salary and render such service as the Board may determine.

¶ 405, § 3. FREEDMEN'S AID, ETC.

§ 3. The senior Book Agent at Cincinnati shall be the Treasurer of this Society, and the Board of Managers may appoint such Assistant Treasurers as it deems wise.

IV. General Committee.

¶ 406. There shall be a General Committee of the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society composed as follows:

(1) Of the Bishops; (2) Of the Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary of the Board of Managers, who shall be *ex officio* Secretary of the General Committee; (3) One representative from each of the General Conference Districts respectively, to be appointed by the General Conference (¶ 70); and (4) an equal number of representatives, to be appointed by the Board of Managers; and the said District representatives shall be the same as those elected on the General Committee of the Missionary Society. The Committee shall meet annually in such place and on such day in November as shall be fixed by the Corresponding Secretaries, to receive and consider the annual report of the Board of Managers; to determine what institutions shall receive aid for the ensuing year, the total amount to be expended, and as far as practicable the amount each school shall receive; to fix what amount shall be apportioned to each Annual Conference to be raised for the use of the Board, and to counsel and direct the Board in the general administration of its affairs. It shall have authority, for neglect of official duties or for other cause, to declare the seat of any member vacant in the Board of Managers. If a vacancy shall occur in the Committee by death, resignation, removal from the District, or otherwise, the Bishops shall fill it. Expenses

incurred by the Committee in the discharge of its duties shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Board.

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### V. Duties of Presiding Elders and Pastors.

¶ 407, § 1. Each Presiding Elder shall, as early in the Conference year as possible, inform each Pastor in his District of the amount to be raised in his Charge, and he shall also inquire at the Third Quarterly Conference if the amount asked for has been raised, and, if it has not, urge that it be raised before the close of the Conference year.

§ 2. At the last Quarterly Conference of each year, a Committee of not less than three nor more than nine shall be appointed, of which the Pastor shall be Chairman, to be called the Committee on Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education, whose duty it shall be to aid in carrying into effect the provisions of the Discipline and the plans of the Officers and Managers of the Society for the support of this cause, so that at least the amount asked for each year in the Charge shall be secured. This Committee shall also see that information concerning this work is diffused among the people.

¶ 408. The Pastor shall, once a year, with the aid of the Committee on Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education, present the claims of this work to his people, and ask subscriptions and collections for the support of the same. The Pastor shall preach, or cause to be preached, a sermon on the occasion. He shall report to the Annual Conference the amount collected for this cause, and the collections shall be published in a column in the General Minutes, and also in the Minutes of the Annual Conference.



## CHAPTER VII.

## THE BOOK CONCERN.

## I. Publishing Houses.

¶ 409. The principal Publishing Houses of the Book Concern shall be in the cities of New York and Cincinnati; but there shall be Depositories of our publications at such other places as the General Conference may from time to time determine.

¶ 410. The General Conference shall quadrennially elect two Agents for the Publishing House in New York and two Agents for the Publishing House in Cincinnati; which Agents shall have authority, under the supervision of the Book Committee, to regulate the publications and all other business of the Concern, except that which belongs to the Editorial Departments, in such manner as the interests of the Church may require.

¶ 411. It shall be the duty of the Agents of both Publishing Houses to publish such books, tracts, periodicals, etc., as are ordered by the General Conference or by the Book Committee. They may nominate an Editor, who, when elected by the Book Committee, shall have editorial supervision of all manuscripts intended for publication.

¶ 412. The Agents at Cincinnati shall supervise and manage the business in the West in cooperation with the Agents at New York. Either House shall have authority to publish any book or tract previously issued by

the other House, when in the judgment of the Agents or of the Book Committee the interests of the Church require such republication, and the plates for the same or for any new work about to be published by either shall upon order be supplied by the other at cost. Printed sheets shall be supplied by either House to the other at master's rates, and bound books of the General Catalogue at not less than fifty per cent discount from the retail price.

¶ 413. Each House shall pay such proportion of the appropriations made by the General Conference or of the dividends authorized by the Book Committee as the General Conference or the Book Committee may from time to time direct.

¶ 414. The Publishing Agents shall keep a separate account with each department of the business, and with each periodical published under their supervision, and they shall set forth in their reports to the Annual and General Conferences the amount of sales, receipts, and expenditures for books, periodicals, and depositories under their control, together with a statement of the profits or losses on the same. They shall furnish to the Local Committee, hereinafter designated, at each of its monthly meetings, a full and satisfactory statement of the transactions of the preceding month; and, if the Local Committee shall so require, present for examination vouchers for all payments during the period specified. And they shall afford said Committee every possible means and facility for a full and intelligent understanding of the business.

¶ 415. The Agents both at New York and Cincinnati shall annually take an account of stock, including in their inventory all the assets of whatever nature of the respective Publishing Houses at their estimated cash value,

except real estate, which shall be appraised by the Local Committees respectively at the beginning of each quadrennium, and this valuation shall not be changed during the quadrennium except by the purchase or sale, improvement or destruction, of property; said account shall also contain a full and detailed statement of all liabilities, profits, and losses. And they shall hand over to their successors in office such statement of assets and liabilities as shall be approved and certified by the Book Committee.

¶ 416. The Publishing Agents and Editors are required to give their undivided attention to the duties of their respective positions, and to require of their employees the faithful performance of the work assigned to them.

¶ 417. Every Annual Conference shall appoint a committee, which, in the absence of an Agent, shall attend to the collection of the accounts forwarded from the Book Concern, and make accurate return for the same. Every Presiding Elder and Pastor shall do all in his power to collect debts due the Concern. If any Minister or Member of our Church, indebted to the Book Concern, shall refuse or neglect to make payment, or come to a just settlement, he shall be dealt with in the same manner as in other cases of debt or disputed accounts.

¶ 418. The profits arising from the Book Concern, after a sufficient capital to carry on the business is retained, shall be regularly applied to the relief of Effective, Supernumerary, and Superannuated Ministers, their wives, widows, and children. The Publishing Agents shall every year forward to each Annual Conference a statement of the dividend to which it is entitled, together with a draft for the same.

¶ 419. Any Member of an Annual Conference who

may publish any work or book of his own shall be responsible to his Conference for any obnoxious matter or doctrine contained therein.

## II. The Book Committee.

¶ 420. The General Conference shall elect a Book Committee to serve for four years, consisting of one from each of the General Conference Districts into which the Annual Conferences are distributed, and of three from New York or its vicinity, to be known as the Local Committee in New York; and three from Cincinnati or vicinity, to be known as the Local Committee in Cincinnati. The Book Committee shall during the interval of the General Conference have power to fill vacancies occurring in its own body. Such Committee shall have general supervision of the publishing interests of the Church, examine carefully into their condition, and make report of the same to the Annual Conferences and to the General Conference. It shall also be its duty to fix the salaries of the Bishops, Publishing Agents, and all official Editors not otherwise provided for, and upon the recommendation of the Agents, to elect a Book Editor, and to determine the amounts to be allowed for correspondence for the several official periodicals. It shall have full power to discontinue any depository or periodical when the interests of the Church or Book Concern demand it; said action shall, however, not be taken except by a two thirds vote of the Committee, due notice of such contemplated action having been given the Agents. The Committee shall also have the power to order expenses curtailed in any department of either Publishing House when it deems it necessary for the welfare of the same; and when such action as above



specified shall have been taken, the Agents shall proceed at once to carry out the instructions of the Committee. The Committee shall also attend to all matters referred to it by the Agents or Editors for its action or counsel. The Agents of either Publishing House are authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Local Committee, to sell any real estate belonging to the same when it may be deemed best for the interests of the Church and Book Concern.

¶ 421. The Local Committees at New York and Cincinnati, acting jointly, shall have power to suspend an Agent or Editor for cause to them sufficient, and a time shall be fixed at as early a day as practicable for the investigation of the official conduct of said Agent or Editor, due notice of which shall be given by the Chairman of the Book Committee to the Bishops, who shall select one of their number to be present and preside at the investigation, which shall be before the fourteen members from the districts into which the Annual Conferences are distributed, two thirds of whom may remove said Agent or Editor from office in the interval of the General Conference. And in case a vacancy occurs in any of the Agencies or Editorial Departments authorized by the General Conference, it shall be the duty of the Book Committee, two at least of the General Superintendents being present and a majority of those present concurring, to provide as soon as practicable for such vacancy until the next General Conference.

¶ 422. The Book Committee shall be governed by the following regulations:

1. Immediately after its appointment the members shall divide themselves into two sections of ten each, the one to consist of the members from the Eastern Districts, together with the Local Committee in New York, to be

called the Eastern Section; the other to consist of the members from the Western Districts and the Local Committee in Cincinnati, to be called the Western Section.

2. To the Eastern Section shall pertain the supervision of the Publishing House in New York. The three members chosen from New York and vicinity as a Local Committee shall meet monthly at the Book Room in New York, to examine into the transactions of the month preceding. They shall keep a correct record of their proceedings, to be submitted to the Eastern Section of the Book Committee at its annual meeting, to be held at the place of and on the day previous to the meeting of the Book Committee.

3. The Western Section of the Book Committee and the Local Committee at Cincinnati shall perform the same duties for the Publishing House in Cincinnati, and be under the same regulations as are herein specified for the government of the Eastern Section.

4. The annual meeting of the Book Committee shall be held on the second Wednesday of February, and each Section shall have meetings at such time as it may elect.

### III. Editors and Periodicals.

¶ 423. There shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference an Editor for each of the following periodicals: *The Methodist Review*, *The Christian Advocate*, *The Northern Christian Advocate*, *The Pittsburg Christian Advocate*, *The California Christian Advocate*, *The Southwestern Christian Advocate*, *The Western Christian Advocate*, *The Northwestern Christian Advocate*, *The Central Christian Advocate*, *The Epworth Herald*, *The Christian Apologist*, *The Pacific Christian Advocate*, and *Haus und*

*Herd.* The Editor of *Haus und Herd* shall also be Editor of German Sunday School books, periodicals, and tracts.

¶ 424. The Corresponding Secretary of the Sunday School Union and the Tract Society shall be Editor of the Sunday School papers and tracts. He shall also, in consultation with the Publishing Agents, have charge of the Department of Sunday School Requisites, including books of instruction for Sunday Schools and Normal Classes. He shall also be Superintendent of the Department of Sunday School Instruction. The Sunday School Union and the Tract Society shall each pay such proportion of his salary as the Book Committee in consultation with the Executive Committee of each Society shall consider just. The Editor of German Sunday School publications in Cincinnati shall be the German Assistant Secretary of the Sunday School Union and the Tract Society, without additional salary.

¶ 425. The Annual Conferences are affectionately and earnestly requested not to establish or encourage the founding of any more Conference or local Church papers; and where such papers exist to discontinue the same, when it can be done consistently with existing obligations.

#### IV. Special Publishing Committees.

¶ 426. *The California Christian Advocate* shall be published at San Francisco, California, by the Agents at New York, under the direction of the General Book Committee, and with a local committee of seven persons, appointed by the General Conference.

¶ 427. There shall be a Publishing Committee for *The Pittsburg Christian Advocate*, consisting of three members from the Pittsburg Conference, two from the Erie Conference, two from the East Ohio Conference, and two

from the West Virginia Conference, to be chosen by the General Conference. The Committee shall fix the salary of the Editor, keep an account of the receipts and expenditures for the paper, and shall report annually its financial condition to the patronizing Conferences. A copy of said report shall also be sent to the Agents at New York, and any balance remaining after defraying current expenses shall be subject to the order of said Agents.

#### V. Depositories.

¶ 428. There shall be Depositories of our books at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; at Boston, Massachusetts; at Buffalo, New York; at San Francisco, California; and at Detroit, Michigan. They shall be furnished by the Agents at New York with full supplies of the books of our General Catalogue, Sunday School books and tracts, to be sold for the Concern at the same terms as at New York; *provided*, that there shall not be more than fifteen thousand dollars' worth at Pittsburg, nor more than ten thousand dollars' worth at Boston. There shall also be a Depository at Chicago, Illinois, and one at St. Louis, Missouri, to be supplied by the Agents at Cincinnati.

¶ 429. The expenses incident to the transportation, management, and sale of our books at these Depositories having been met out of the sales, the net proceeds shall be forwarded to the Agents.

¶ 430. Full statements shall be made to the Agents, at dates fixed by them, of the amount of sales and expenses; distinguishing cash sales from those on credit. Annual statements shall also be made of the amount of stock.

¶ 431. No books shall hereafter be sold on commis-



sion, either from New York, Cincinnati, or any Depository or establishment under our direction.

## VI. Circulation of Religious Tracts.

¶ 432. It is recommended to our people everywhere to form Tract Societies auxiliary to the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 433. It is recommended to Pastors to take annually, in their several Congregations, collections in behalf of the Tract Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

¶ 434. It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the Tract cause before the last Quarterly Conference of each year, in each Charge within his District; and said Conference shall appoint a Committee, of which the Pastor shall be Chairman, whose duty it shall be to devise and execute plans for local tract distribution.

CHAPTER I

MODE OF DETERMINING BOUNDARIES

PART VIII.

BOUNDARIES OF MISSIONS.  
BOUNDARIES.



## CHAPTER I.

## MODE OF DETERMINING BOUNDARIES.

¶ 435. The General Conference shall appoint a Committee on Boundaries, consisting of one member from each Annual Conference to be nominated by the delegations severally, over which one of the Bishops shall preside, of which one of the General Conference Secretaries shall be the secretary, and of which Committee twenty-five shall be a quorum. All matters pertaining to Conference lines shall be referred to this Committee; and when the Committee shall have fixed the boundaries of all the Conferences, it shall submit its report to the General Conference, which shall immediately act upon the same as a whole without amendment and without debate; *provided*, however, that in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 86, a Central Mission Conference may fix the boundaries of the Annual Conferences within its bounds, the General Conference first having determined the number of Annual Conferences that may be allowed in that field.

¶ 436. Any two or more Conferences which may be mutually interested in the readjustment of their common boundaries may at any time raise a Joint Commission, consisting of five members from each Conference directly interested, and the decision of such Joint Commission, in which it shall be necessary for a majority of the five members representing each of said Conferences, to concur, when it shall be approved by the Bishop or Bishops who may preside at these Conferences at their sessions next ensuing, shall be final. But if the Commission so appointed shall fail to agree, or the Presiding Bishop shall not concur, then the case, with a statement of the facts, together with the records of the Commission, shall come to the General Conference for final adjudication.

¶ 437. No petition, resolution, or memorial involving change of Conference boundaries, or the division or absorption of Conferences, or the organization of new Conferences



out of the territory already occupied by organized Conferences, shall be entertained by the Committee on Boundaries until notice shall have been given by the Conference or Conferences desiring such change, or by a majority of the Presiding Elders thereof, to all of the Conferences to be affected thereby; *provided*, however, that upon a petition of a majority of the delegates representing any Conference or Conferences to be affected thereby, the Committee on Boundaries may adjust the matters involved in said petition, subject to the approval of the Conferences named in such petition, at their session succeeding the General Conference.

## CHAPTER II.

### BOUNDARIES OF CONFERENCES.

¶ 438. § 1. ALABAMA CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in the State of Alabama, and that part of the State of Florida west of Appalachicola River, and also the work among the white people within the territory of the Upper Mississippi Conference.

§ 2. ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in the State of Arkansas.

§ 3. ATLANTA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Georgia lying north of a line running east and west on the line of the northern boundaries of Richmond, McDuffie, Warren, Hancock, Putnam, Jasper, and Butts Counties; that part of Spalding County embracing Liberty Hill Circuit; that part of Meriwether County embracing Greenville, and that part of Troup County containing La Grange Station and La Grange Circuit.

§ 4. AUSTIN CONFERENCE shall include the State of Texas except El Paso County.

§ 5. BALTIMORE CONFERENCE shall include the District of Columbia, the Western Shore of Maryland, except that part of Garrett County lying west of the dividing ridge of the Allegheny Mountains; so much of the State of Pennsylvania as lies within the Hancock, Flintstone, Union Grove, and Hyndman Circuits; the County of Frederick in the State of Vir-

ginia; and the counties of Jefferson, Berkley, Morgan, Hampshire, Mineral, and Grant, in the State of West Virginia.

§ 6. BENGAL-BURMAH CONFERENCE shall consist of Bengal, Bekar, and Burmah.

§ 7. BLUE RIDGE CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in the State of North Carolina, and in the twelve counties of the State of South Carolina, as follows: Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, York, Chester, Union, Anderson, Laurens, Abbeville, Newberry, and Fairfield; it shall also include the work among the Croatan Indians.

§ 8. BOMBAY CONFERENCE shall consist of the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces, Berars, that portion of the Nizam's Dominions north of the Godavery River, and all of Central India south of the twenty-fifth parallel of latitude.

§ 9. CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of California lying west of the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and north of a line commencing at Carmel Bay, Monterey County, and running thence on a straight line to the intersection of Merced and Fresno Counties, thence along the western and northern line of Merced County and the northern line of Mariposa County to the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, leaving Salinas City in the California Conference; it shall also include the Sandwich Islands and all the Swedish work in the States of California, Nevada, and Arizona, which shall constitute a Swedish Presiding Elder's district.

§ 10. CALIFORNIA GERMAN CONFERENCE shall include the German work within the State of California.

§ 11. CENTRAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE shall include the State of Alabama and that part of the State of Florida west of the Apalachicola River.

§ 12. CENTRAL GERMAN CONFERENCE shall comprise the German work within the States of Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, and Indiana, except those appointments belonging at present to the Chicago German Conference; also the German work in Western Pennsylvania and in the Southern States not included in the East German, St. Louis German, and Southern German Conferences.

§ 13. CENTRAL ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall embrace that part of the State of Illinois north of the Illinois Conference

and south of the following line, namely: Beginning on the Mississippi River at the Meredosia, thence down the Meredosia to its mouth; thence easterly to Center School House so as to include Center Society; thence to the mouth of Mud Creek; thence up Green River to Coal Creek; thence up said creek to the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad; thence along said railroad to Bureau Junction; thence to the Illinois River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Kankakee River, leaving Ottawa in the Rock River Conference and Bureau Junction in the Central Illinois Conference; thence up the Kankakee River to a point directly west of the extreme north line of Kankakee County; thence directly east to the Indiana line.

§ 14. CENTRAL MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include the States of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and that part of the State of Illinois lying west of the following line: Beginning at the city of Cairo, and running north along the Illinois Central Railroad to the city of Mendota, and including all of the towns on said line of railroad; thence north to the Wisconsin State line, and thence west along said State line to the Mississippi River.

§ 15. CENTRAL NEW YORK CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the west by the west lines of the towns of Williamson, Marion, and Palmyra in Wayne County, and of the towns of Farmington and Canandaigua in Ontario County, and of Yates and Schuyler Counties, and of the towns of Hornby and Caton in Steuben County, and in the State of Pennsylvania by the railroad running from Lawrenceville to Blossburg, including Mansfield and Blossburg Charges; on the south by Central Pennsylvania Conference; on the east by Wyoming and Northern New York Conferences; on the north by Northern New York Conference and Lake Ontario.

§ 16. CENTRAL OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the north line of the State of Ohio; on the east by the North Ohio Conference, excluding Asbury Church, in Delaware; on the south by the Springfield branch of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis Railroad to the west line of the Ohio Conference, yet so as to exclude St. Paul's Charge, in Delaware, and Milford, and to include Marysville; thence to the west line of the State of Ohio, by



the north line of the Cincinnati Conference ; and on the west by the west line of the State of Ohio.

§ 17. CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows : On the south by the State line from the Susquehanna River to the west boundary of Bedford County, excepting so much of the State of Pennsylvania as is included in the Baltimore Conference ; on the west by the west line of Bedford, Blair, and Clearfield Counties, including New Washington Circuit and excluding so much of Clearfield County as is embraced in the Erie Conference, and a line from the north of Clearfield County to St. Mary's ; on the north by a line extending from St. Mary's eastward to Emporium, including Sizerville and Gardeau, of the Emporium Circuit ; thence by the southern boundary of Potter and Tioga Counties, including Austin, Costello, Wharton, Leidy, Hoytsville, and Liberty Valley Circuits ; thence through Sullivan County north of Laporte to the west line of Wyoming County ; thence on the east by the present limits of the Wyoming Conference, being the east line of Sullivan County, to the north line of Columbia County ; thence a line southeasterly through Luzerne County to the north line of the Philadelphia Conference, near White Haven ; thence on the south by the northern line of Carbon, Schuylkill, and Dauphin Counties to the Susquehanna River, including Hickory Run, Weatherly, Beaver Meadow, and Ashland, and thence by the Susquehanna River to the place of beginning, including Harrisburg, and the Curtin Heights and Epworth Charges.

§ 18. CENTRAL SWEDISH CONFERENCE shall include all of the Swedish work within the States of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, the City of Racine in the State of Wisconsin, and also the Swedish work in the State of New York west of the Genesee River, and in the State of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River.

§ 19. CENTRAL TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in all that part of the State of Tennessee west of and excluding the counties of Marion, Grundy, Van Buren, Cumberland, and Fentress.

§ 20. CHICAGO GERMAN CONFERENCE shall include the German work in the State of Wisconsin, except those appointments along the Mississippi River and in that part of the



State of Illinois north of an east and west line passing along the north line of the City of Bloomington, excepting the territory now in the St. Louis German Conference, and east of a north and south line passing through the city of Freeport, and in that part of the State of Indiana west of the line between the counties of St. Joseph and Elkhart, and north of the line between Stark and Pulaski Counties. It shall also include Danville, in the State of Illinois, and the upper peninsula of Michigan.

§ 21. CINCINNATI CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by a line commencing at Union City, on the Indiana State line, running thence along the Dayton and Union Railroad to Greenville, Darke County, Ohio, including the railroad stations on the line of said railroad, and Greenville also; thence along the Pan Handle Railroad to Milford Center, excluding Gettysburg, Bradford, Lockington, and St. Paris Charges, and including the cities of Piqua and Urbana, and the Tremont City and King's Creek Charges; on the east by the Ohio Conference; on the south by the Ohio River, and on the west by the State of Indiana, but excluding Elizabeth, Hamilton County, Ohio, to the Indiana Conference.

§ 22. COLORADO CONFERENCE shall include the State of Colorado.

§ 23. COLUMBIA RIVER CONFERENCE shall include the counties of Wasco, Umatilla, Crook, Morrow, Gilliam, Grant, Union, and Wallowa, in the State of Oregon; all of the State of Washington east of the summit of the Cascade Mountains; and, in the State of Idaho, the counties of Shoshone, Kootenai, Latah, Nez Perces, and all of Idaho County lying north of a line running parallel with the Salmon River ten miles south of said river.

§ 24. DAKOTA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of South Dakota lying east of the meridian 101 degrees west longitude.

§ 25. DELAWARE CONFERENCE shall include the colored work in the States of Delaware, New Jersey, and New York, excepting, however, St. Mark's Church, in the city of New York; New Haven, in the State of Connecticut; all the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and all the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania not included in the Washington Conference.

§ 26. DES MOINES CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Iowa west and south of the following lines: Beginning at the southeast corner of Wayne County, thence north to the south line of Marshall County, leaving Knoxville in the Iowa Conference and the Monroe Charge in the Des Moines Conference; thence west to the southeast corner of Story County; thence north to the northeast corner of Story County; thence west to the northeast corner of Crawford County; thence south to the north line of township eighty-three; thence west to the east line of Monona County; thence south and west on the line of Monona County to the Missouri River.

§ 27. DETROIT CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Michigan in the lower peninsula east of the principal meridian as far north as the southern boundary of Roscommon County; thence west to the southwest corner of said county; thence north to the southern boundary of Charlevoix County; thence east to the southeast corner of said county of Charlevoix; thence north to the straits of Mackinaw; and it shall also include the upper peninsula.

§ 28. EAST GERMAN CONFERENCE shall embrace the German work east of the Allegheny Mountains.

§ 29. EAST MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine not included in the Maine Conference.

§ 30. EAST OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded by a line beginning at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, running easterly to the Pennsylvania State line; thence along said line to the Ohio River, including Orangeville Church, and leaving the Petersburg Society in the Erie Conference; thence down said river to the Muskingum River; thence up the Muskingum River to Dresden, excluding Marietta and Zanesville; from Dresden northward along the Muskingum River and the Tuscarawas River to its intersection with the Ohio Canal near Zoar; from this point along said canal to Lake Erie, excluding Navarre and Clinton, and including Bolivar and Akron and all the city of Cleveland lying east of the Cuyahoga River.

§ 31. EAST TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Tennessee not in the Tennessee Conference; that part of the State of Virginia west of and including the counties of Carroll, Floyd, Montgomery, and Giles in said State; and

the counties of Mercer, Wyoming, and McDowell, in the State of West Virginia.

§ 32. ERIE CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by Lake Erie, on the east by a line commencing at the mouth of the Cattaraugus Creek, thence up said creek to Gowanda, leaving said town in the Genesee Conference; thence to the Allegheny River at the mouth of the Tunungwant Creek; thence up said creek southward, excluding the city of Bradford on said creek, to the ridge dividing between the waters of Clarion and Sinnemahoning Creeks; thence southward to the Mahoning Creek; thence down said creek to the Allegheny River, excluding the Milton Society, but including the Horatio Society in the Walston Circuit, and the Perrysville Society in the Ringgold Circuit, and Putneyville Society in the Putneyville Circuit; then across the said river in a northwesterly direction to the southwest corner of Lawrence County, including Wampum and Petersburg; thence along the Ohio State line to the place of beginning, excluding Orangeville Church.

§ 33. FLORIDA CONFERENCE shall include the State of Florida, except that portion lying west of the Appalachicola River.

§ 34. FOO-CHOW CONFERENCE shall include the Fo-Kien Province in China, excepting so much as is included within the Hinghua Mission Conference.

§ 35. GENESEE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of New York lying west of the Central New York Conference, excepting that part of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties now included in the Erie Conference. It shall also include Gowanda and Corning, in the State of New York, and so much of Tioga County, including Tioga Charge, in the State of Pennsylvania, as is not embraced in the Central New York Conference; also so much of Potter County, in the said State of Pennsylvania, as is not included in Central Pennsylvania Conference; also, including so much of McKean County, in said State of Pennsylvania, as is embraced in the Olean District, including the city of Bradford.

§ 36. GEORGIA CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in the State of Georgia.

§ 37. HOLSTON CONFERENCE shall include the work among the white people in all of that part of the State of Tennessee not included in the Central Tennessee Conference.



§ 38. IDAHO CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Idaho not included in the Columbia River Conference, and the counties of Baker and Malheur in the State of Oregon.

§ 39. ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Illinois not within the Southern Illinois Conference south of the following line, namely : Beginning at Warsaw, on the Mississippi River ; thence to Vermont ; thence to the mouth of the Spoon River ; thence up the Illinois River to the northwest corner of Mason County ; thence to the junction of the Central and the Alton and Chicago Railroads ; thence to the southwest corner of Iroquois County ; thence east to the State of Indiana, leaving Bentley, Vermont, Manito, Mackinaw Circuit, and Normal in the Central Illinois and Warsaw and Bloomington in the Illinois Conference.

§ 40. INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north and east by a line beginning where the National Road intersects the west line of the State of Indiana ; thence along said road to Terre Haute ; thence along the Vandalia Railroad to Belmont Street, West Indianapolis, including Locust Street Charge in Greencastle ; thence north to Michigan Street ; thence east to the Belt Railroad ; thence north and east along said railroad to a point due west of Ninth Street ; thence east to the Lafayette and Indianapolis Railroad ; thence north on said railroad to the Michigan Road ; thence on said road to the north line of Marion County ; thence east on said county line to the northeast corner of said county ; thence south on the east line of said county to the National Road ; thence east on said road to the State line ; on the east by Ohio, including Elizabeth, Hamilton County, Ohio ; on the south by the Ohio River, and on the west by the State of Illinois.

§ 41. IOWA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Mississippi River, on the south by the Missouri State line, on the west and north by a line commencing at the southwest corner of Appanoose County ; thence north to Marshall County, leaving Knoxville in the Iowa Conference and Monroe in the Des Moines Conference ; thence on the south line of Marshall County due east to Iowa River ; thence down said river to Iowa City ; thence on the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad to Davenport, leaving Davenport and Iowa



City in the Upper Iowa Conference, and all intermediate towns in the Iowa Conference.

§ 42. ITALY CONFERENCE shall include the Kingdom of Italy, and those parts of contiguous countries where the Italian language is spoken.

§ 43. JAPAN CONFERENCE shall include the Empire of Japan.

§ 44. KANSAS CONFERENCE shall embrace that portion of the State of Kansas lying east of the sixth principal meridian, and north of the south line of township sixteen, including the town of Pomona, lying south of said line, but excluding Louisburg, Ottawa, and Baldwin, lying north of said line, and Solomon City Circuit, lying east of the sixth meridian.

§ 45. KENTUCKY CONFERENCE shall include the State of Kentucky.

§ 46. LEXINGTON CONFERENCE shall include the States of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, excepting so much of the State of Illinois as is included in the Central Missouri Conference.

§ 47. LIBERIA CONFERENCE shall embrace the western coast of Africa, north of the equator.

§ 48. LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE shall include the State of Arkansas.

§ 49. LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include the State of Louisiana.

§ 50. MAINE CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Maine west of the Kennebec River, from its mouth to the great bend below Skowhegan, and of a line running thence north to the State line, including Skowhegan and Augusta, and that part of the town of Winslow north of Sebasticook River, and also that part of New Hampshire east of the White Hills and north of the waters of Ossipee Lake and the town of Gorham.

§ 51. MEXICO CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Mexico except the States of Chihuahua and Sonora and the Territory of Lower California; it shall also include Central America.

§ 52. MICHIGAN CONFERENCE shall include the State of Michigan in the lower peninsula west of the principal meridian as far north as the southern boundary of Roscommon County; thence west to the southwest corner of said county;

thence north to the southern boundary of Charlevoix County ; thence east to the southeast corner of said county ; thence north to the Straits of Mackinaw, including Mackinaw City.

§ 53. MINNESOTA CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Minnesota lying south of the following line: Beginning at the eastern boundary of the State at the northeast corner of Washington County, thence running west to the northwest corner of said county, thence south to the northeast corner of Ramsey County, thence following the line of Ramsey County to where it strikes the east line of Hennepin County, thence following the east and south lines of Hennepin County to the point where the Hastings and Dakota Railroad crosses the line of said county, thence following the said Hastings and Dakota Railroad to Granite Falls, thence west on a town line to the western boundary of the State ; all towns on the Hastings and Dakota Railroad to be in the Northern Minnesota Conference.

§ 54. MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Mississippi south of a line beginning at the northeast corner of Kemper County, and running along the northern border of said county, and of the counties of Neshoba, Leake, Madison, Yazoo, Sharkey, and Issaquena to the Mississippi River.

§ 55. MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall include so much of the State of Missouri as lies north of the Missouri River.

§ 56. MONTANA CONFERENCE shall include all of the State of Montana not included in the North Montana Mission, and also the National Park.

§ 57. NEBRASKA CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the State of Nebraska lying south of the Platte River and east of the west line of range twelve, west of the sixth principal meridian.

§ 58. NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE shall include all the State of Massachusetts east of the Green Mountains not included in the New Hampshire and the New England Southern Conferences.

§ 59. NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of Connecticut lying east of the Connecticut River, the State of Rhode Island, with the town of Blackstone in Massachusetts, and that part of the State of Massachusetts south of the towns of Wrentham, Walpole, Dedham, Milton, and Quincy.

§ 60. NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE shall include the State of New Hampshire, except that part within the Maine Conference; also that part of the State of Massachusetts northeast of the Merrimac River.

§ 61. NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New Jersey lying south of the following line, namely: Commencing at Raritan Bay; thence up said bay and river to New Brunswick; thence along the turnpike road to Lambertville on the Delaware, including the City of New Brunswick and Lambertville Station.

§ 62. NEW YORK CONFERENCE shall consist of the territory now in the New York, Poughkeepsie (including Gaylordsville), Newburg, and Kingston Districts.

§ 63. NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE shall include Long Island, those charges in New York city east of South Ferry, Whitehall Street, Broadway, Park Row, Chatham Street, Bowery, and Third Avenue to the city limits; thence between the Harlem and New Haven Railroads, including Round Hill, Pound Ridge, Hunting Ridge, High Ridge, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Danbury, all stations on the Housatonic Railroad south of Canaan Township, excluding Gaylordsville, but including Ellsworth; thence east to Winchester, north to State line, east to Connecticut River, and south to Long Island Sound.

§ 64. NEWARK CONFERENCE shall include that part of the State of New Jersey not included in the New Jersey Conference, with Staten Island in the State of New York, and such portions of Rockland, Orange, and Sullivan Counties in the State of New York as lie south and west of a line extending from Tompkins Cove on the Hudson River, intersecting the New Jersey State line at a point south of Sloatsburg; thence along said State line to the Wallkill River; thence due north intersecting the Erie Railroad at a point west of Middletown; thence in a northwesterly direction to a point where the Port Jervis and Monticello Railroad crosses the northern line of Forestburg Township in Sullivan County; thence southwest to a point on the Delaware River below Lackawaxen, in Pennsylvania; also, such portions of Pike and Monroe Counties in the State of Pennsylvania as lie north of the Philadelphia Conference and east of the Wyoming Conference, the same being now in.

cluded in the Matamoras, Milford, Dingman's, and Coolbaugh Charges.

§ 65. NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include the State of North Carolina, and all that part of the State of Virginia lying south of a line beginning at Cape Henry and running to Hampton Roads; thence with Hampton Roads to the James River; thence with the southern bank of the James River to Chesterfield County; thence with the northern boundary of the following counties: Prince George, Dinwiddie, Nottaway, Prince Edward, Charlotte, Halifax, to the northeast corner of Pittsylvania; thence in a southwesterly direction to the northeast corner of Henry; thence with the county lines of Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Bedford to the corner of Bedford and Roanoke; thence with the Blue Ridge Mountains to the North Carolina line.

§ 66. NORTH CHINA CONFERENCE shall include that portion of the Chinese Empire including and north of the Provinces of Shantung and Honan.

§ 67. NORTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE shall include the State of North Dakota.

§ 68. NORTH GERMANY CONFERENCE shall include all that part of Germany north of a line running from the northwest to the southeast between the Rhine Provinces and Westphalia, and from the southern point of Westphalia to the northern point of Bavaria; thence by the north and northeast boundary of Bavaria, between Bavaria on the one side and the Turingian States and the Kingdom of Saxony on the other, so as to include the present Berlin and Bremen Districts; also including the circuits of Kassell and Warburg.

§ 69. NORTH INDIA CONFERENCE shall consist of the Northwest Provinces east of the Ganges, and the Province of Oudh.

§ 70. NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the State of Michigan; on the east by the State of Ohio, including Union City; on the south by the National Road from the State line west to Marion County; thence north to the northeast corner of said county; thence west to the Michigan Road; on the west by said Michigan Road to South Bend, and thence by the St. Joseph River to the Michigan State line, including Logansport and all towns on the National Road east of Indianapolis.